

## Night and day

Pyjama parties taking over our streets

LifeStyle Page 13

## Get the picture

Future illustrators catch the eye

News Page 17

## Red alert

Solskjaer plots another United escape to victory

Tuesday Sport Pages 4-5



Tuesday, April 16, 2019

www.irishexaminer.com

No. 61,512

€2.20 (€1.50 in N. Ireland)

# Entire FAI board urged to resign

■ Delaney 'stepping aside' not enough as TDs want 'clean sweep'

**Fiachra Ó Cionnaith, John Fallon, and Joe Leogue**

The entire FAI board is facing cross-party demands to quit after politicians inquired that John Delaney's decision to "step aside" while an FAI review takes place fails to go far enough. The majority of Oireachtas sports committee members will demand that Sports Minister Shane Ross and Sport Ireland remove the FAI board at a crucial meeting today, saying the FAI needs to be swept clean to restore trust.

However, despite the demands, the *Irish Examiner* understands Sport Ireland will tell TDs it cannot remove every board member without risking legal action or potential Fifa sanctions against the Irish football team under political interference rules.

After a third behind-closed-doors crisis meeting with Mr Delaney in four days, the FAI board released a statement last night saying its ex-chief executive has "offered to voluntarily step aside" from his new role as executive vice-president.

The FAI statement said Mr Delaney has "offered to voluntarily step aside," pending the completion of an independent investigation by the association, adding that honorary secretary Michael Cody and honorary treasurer Eddie Murray have departed.

However, despite the apparent breakthrough, the statement was immediately criticised for leaving a series of questions unanswered, including: ■ Whether, and what, Mr Delaney will continue to be paid pending the FAI review; ■ Whether this review refers to the Mazars or Grant Thornton reports – both of which are FAI funded – or a third review; ■ And if Mr Delaney will be allowed to return if cleared by the review.

The lack of clarity – just hours after Sport Ireland warned the FAI it faces a wide-ranging independent audit unless it acts – came as Mr Delaney refused to take questions as he left the board meeting at the Carlton Dublin Airport Hotel, leading to a furious political response.

In separate statements to the *Irish Examiner*, sports

committee chair and Fine Gael TD Fergus O'Dowd; Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy; Fine Gael TD Noel Rock; Fianna Fáil TD Robert Troy; and Sinn Féin TD Imelda Munster, among others, all called for the board to go. Mr Rock said officials should be "scattering around like chickens in a cloud cuckoo land".

Mr Troy said there is cross-party agreement a clean sweep is needed; and Ms Munster said "State funding should not be restored until they are gone". Asked if the FAI statement went far enough, committee chair Mr O'Dowd said "no", before adding when asked if the board should leave "yes, absolutely, there is an opportunity to start anew and they should take it".

However, the *Irish Examiner* understands that Sport Ireland will today tell the committee that despite the cross-party demands, removing all board members may be impossible.

Senior sources said that although politicians "can hop up and down all they like", any board removals can only happen if there are clear breaches of corporate law – a matter outside Sport Ireland's terrain. And while Sport Ireland will ensure the FAI adheres to the rules, sources said any mass removal could lead to court action and see Ireland's soccer team face Fifa sanctions over political interference.

Although Mr Ross had yet to comment last night, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar echoed Sport Ireland's concerns in an interview with the *journalist*.

Despite saying an "investigation" will happen, Mr Varadkar said he would be disinclined to tar everyone with the one brush, adding: "When you replace an entire board, you can create a new problem, because you have a new board of 15 people with no experience or memory of the organisation. 'Often what you'll do in that kind of situation is maybe keep half the board and bring in new people to strengthen it. But again, that is really a call for the FAI'."

**News: 6**  
**Score: 2&3**

## Paris is burning



A firefighter attempts to tackle the blaze as Notre Dame cathedral burns in Paris yesterday. SEE: Page 8

Picture: Michel Euler/AP

# Call for inquiry into Garda sick notes probe

**Michael Clifford**  
Special Correspondent

The solicitor for a civilian Garda employee who was the subject of a criminal investigation over the production of sick notes at work has called for a "full and impartial" inquiry.

The trial of Lynn Margiotta and her brother, Tony Margiotta, at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court collapsed last month after a judge ruled her rights have been abused.

Ms Margiotta had been accused on over a dozen occasions of using a "false instrument" in 2014, and her brother with making a false instrument.

The prosecution case was that Dr Margiotta had provided his sister with medical certs to say she was not fit for work. The gardai did not dispute that she was unwell at the time, but claimed the medical certs were obtained by deception.



Lynn Margiotta leaving court last month after her trial at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court collapsed. Picture: Collins Courts

The certs were signed by Dr Margiotta, but bore the stamp of other doctors who worked or had worked in the practice where he was working. The trial heard that an expert had given an opinion that locum doctors using the stamp of another doctor in a practice is not unusual.

Ms Margiotta was first arrested in August 2014; the case took four and a half

years to reach trial. Three weeks before her arrest, she had made a complaint of bullying against a Garda member.

Ms Margiotta's solicitor, Yvonne Bambray, said the case was unprecedented. "The circumstances of the case warrant a full and impartial inquiry," she said. "These were unprecedented circumstances and it

is disturbing that somebody can be investigated by colleagues and treated in a criminal fashion for something that was a HR issue."

Among the unusual features in the case were: ■ Ms Margiotta was investigated for an alleged crime by her employer rather than being referred to human resources about any issue concerned with sick notes; ■ The investigating gardai did not ask for permission to access the sick notes which contained private medical details; ■ Ms Margiotta was arrested early in the investigation

without any notice; ■ The investigating gardai were all based in the same station where she had worked without incident for the previous 14 years; ■ The judge at the trial ruled she was denied access to a solicitor while in custody; ■ She was arrested a second time over a year later and presented with "evidence" that should have been available to the gardai at the time of her first arrest; ■ She has not been contacted by her employer, An Garda Síochána, since her first arrest; ■ Ms Margiotta was never informed

whether the bullying complaint was dealt with.

"The whole thing had a huge impact on my family, including my 91-year-old father," Ms Margiotta told the *Irish Examiner*. "I would like somebody to be held accountable. There should be an inquiry as to why this happened, why it went on for four and a half years, and how it actually ended up in court."

A number of questions about the case submitted to the Garda Press Office last Wednesday had not received any reply by last night.

**News: 7**

# Order to arrest parents after child misses year of school

**Tom Tuite**

A judge has ordered the arrest of both the mother and father of a girl who did not progress into secondary school and has missed every day of first year.

The parents were due to appear at Dublin District Court yesterday accused of neglecting their child's education.

The prosecution against the west Dublin couple has been brought by Tusla, the child and family agency.

The parents had been served with summonses and the prosecution had its first listing before Judge Anthony Halpin.

However, the man and woman were not present

when the case was called. Prosecuting solicitor Stephanie O'Meara told Judge Halpin the parents had been personally served with the summonses.

She said their daughter had not progressed into secondary school.

The child had missed "100% of first year in second year", it was alleged. Due to the lack of engagement, an application for a bench warrant was made in respect of the parents.

Judge Halpin noted their non-attendance and acceded to the request to issue bench warrants for both, to have them arrested and brought before the court.

A parent could be fined up to €1,000 and jailed for up to

a month if convicted of breaking the Education (Welfare) Act for not complying with an official warning about a child's school attendance.

It is alleged the mother and father contravened a school attendance notice sent earlier.

The notice is a warning that legal action would follow if a child did not attend school regularly.

Before doing this, Tusla's educational welfare services must make reasonable efforts to consult with the parents and the child.

Under the act, the minimum school leaving age was raised to 16 years or the completion of three years of post-primary education.

Carbon tax hikes every year will be considered after an energy report warned that a third of all electricity demands in the country to come from data centres and large energy users.

Energy Minister Richard Bruton confirmed changes to the levy will be considered for the 2020 budget.

**News: 22**

## Essence of Kerry Tour



Stay Five Nights in Paradise  
Sunday 19th - Friday 24th May

Included in your stay are:

- Optional FREE collection and return from Killarney Train Station (19th & 24th)
- Welcome Drinks Reception
- Full Irish Buffet Breakfast
- Dinner each evening in the Pygmalion Restaurant
- Guided Heritage Walk on two mornings
- €20 spa credit on spa treatments (per guest)
- Unlimited access to our indoor swimming pool, thermal suite and outdoor hot tubs
- Nightly Entertainment

€599 per guest sharing | €699 sole occupancy

www.parknasillaresort.com

Parknasilla Resort & Spa, Sneem, Co. Kerry, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)64 6675600

Email: reservations@parknasillaresort.com

**Opinion**  
Some roads, like the road home, are like old friends. So what's it going to be like when we have to drive on the other side of the road due to Brexit?

Page 10

**Analysis**  
Peadar Kirby, founder of new political party Aontú, says that his call for a debate on immigration was criticised unfairly and misrepresented.

Page 11



In your paper today

News ..... 2-7

Minister needs to trust Garda body

Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan has told the annual conference of middle-ranking gardai he needs to 'trust' their representative body.  
Page 5

World ..... 8&9

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has said that, whatever crimes she is accused of, Islamic State bride Shamima Begum is entitled to legal representation.  
Page 9

Arts ..... 12

The Radiation proclamation

Ahead of his trip to Ireland, Roddy 'Radiation' Byers looks back on his early days with The Specials.

Business ..... 14-16

Legislation due to prohibit the blanket use of antibiotics on dairy farms by 2022 is a priority issue for the newly rebranded Milk Quality Ireland.  
Page 15

Irish Examiner contacts

General switchboard: ... 021 4272722  
Dublin switchboard: ... 01 5330880  
News / Diary: ... 021 4802101  
Email: ... news@examiner.ie  
Email: ... diary@examiner.ie  
Sport: ... 021 4802152  
Email: ... sport@examiner.ie  
Business: ... 021 4802259  
Email: ... business@examiner.ie  
Advertising: ... 021 4274455  
Email: ... ads@examiner.ie  
Circulation: ... 021 4802256  
Email: ... circulation@examiner.ie

sudoku

basic

4	9	6	7	3	8	5	1	2
7	3	2	4	1	5	8	6	9
1	8	5	9	2	6	7	4	3
6	2	1	8	5	4	7	3	9
9	5	3	2	4	7	1	8	6
8	4	7	6	9	1	2	3	5
3	7	8	1	6	2	9	5	4
2	6	4	5	8	3	7	1	9
5	1	9	3	7	4	6	2	8

HOW TO PLAY  
Fill in the grid, ensuring that each column and row, and every 3x3 box, contains the numbers 1-9

intermediate

7	2	1	4	9	3	5	8	6
4	3	6	7	5	9	2	1	8
8	9	5	2	6	1	7	4	3
1	7	9	6	3	2	4	5	8
2	5	4	9	1	8	3	6	7
6	8	3	5	4	7	1	9	2
5	4	2	7	8	9	6	1	3
3	6	7	1	2	4	8	5	9
9	1	8	3	5	6	2	7	4

advanced

9	4	2	8	6	5	1	7	3
3	5	6	1	2	7	8	9	4
8	1	7	3	9	4	6	5	2
4	8	3	5	1	9	2	7	6
7	9	5	4	8	2	3	1	6
2	6	1	7	3	9	5	4	8
1	7	4	6	5	8	2	9	3
6	3	9	2	7	1	4	8	5
5	2	8	9	4	3	7	6	1

SOLUTIONS FOR MONDAY

BASIC

9				6	7	2		
1	2		4	8			5	9
4			7	2	9			3
	5	7		6	1	4		
5							2	
		3	9	5		8		
7			4	3	2		6	
2	6		1	8		3	7	
	4	5	6				8	

BASIC

9	1	6		4	3			
			8	3				1
7	2	4	1					
1	4			8				
		3	2		4			
						1	8	
4				4	1	8		5
3	1		9		6		4	

INTERMEDIATE

	5	7		3				2
				9	2		6	
			1		3			
				5				9
6			8	6		3	1	
		2		4				
	1		4	6				
9			2		5	3		

ADVANCED


# 'Piece of the most devious poison delivered across face of the court'

■ Ms Lowry was manipulative, told lies, and put a spin on her evidence, defence lawyers tell murder trial jury

Eoin Reynolds

Mary Lowry's evidence against Patrick Quirke was, "a piece of the most devious poison that has been delivered across the face of the Central Criminal Court for many a year", defence lawyers have told the jury in the lever-rimmed trial.

On day two of the defence closing speech, Bernard Condon said Ms Lowry was manipulative, told lies and put a spin on her evidence — he told the six men and six women it was her attempts to "rewrite history".

Mr Quirke, aged 50, of Breanshamore, Co Tipperary has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Bobby Ryan, a part-time DJ known as Mr Moonlight, Mr Ryan went missing on June 3, 2011, after leaving his girlfriend Mary Lowry's home at about 6.30am. His body was found in an underground run-off tank on the farm owned by Ms Lowry and leased by the accused at Fawnagowan, Co Tipperary, 32 months later in April 2013. The prosecution has claimed that Mr Quirke murdered Mr Ryan so he could rekindle an affair with Ms Lowry, 52.

Mary Lowry tried to do a "devious" thing, Mr Condon said, when she gave evidence about seeing Mr Quirke on the day Mr Ryan went missing.

Ms Lowry was interviewed in June 2011 and told gardai that she saw Mr Quirke at about 8.30am on her driveway that Friday.

She said Mr Quirke would be coming and going at all times and she knew he was going away that weekend and probably wanted to get a few jobs done before setting off.

In a statement in 2013, following the discovery of the body, she said she did not know Mr Quirke was going away, that it was unusual for him to be there so early, and that she noted he was "hot and sweaty and bothered-looking".

Mr Condon said she told this to a jury that is being asked to convict a man of the most serious offence of



Patrick Quirke at court yesterday with his wife, Imelda. He is charged with the murder of 52-year-old Bobby Ryan at an unknown location on a date between June 3, 2011, and April 13, 2013. Quirke has pleaded not guilty to murder. Picture: Collins Courts

murder and added: "That was a piece of the most devious poison that has been delivered across the face of the Central Criminal Court for many a year."

In cross-examination, Ms Lowry denied telling lies and said she can't remember what she said seven years ago, adding: "I speak the truth to what my memory is."

With Mr Quirke and asked: "Why is she doing that?"

He said it was worrying and "worthy of very serious concern".

"What is going on here?" he asked.

He said Ms Lowry had sworn to tell the truth and asked: "What was she trying to do? Why was she trying to do it?"

Mr Condon opened by telling the jury to consider the quality, not the quantity, of the evidence they have heard.

Much of it, he said, relies

on Ms Lowry and even if proven true, would say nothing about murder but suggest she was in a relationship with Mr Quirke that was at different times good, bad, and indifferent.

The end of the relationship was bitter and petty, like many relationships when they break up.

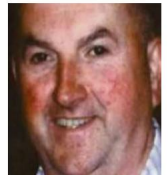
Ms Lowry's first attempt to revise history, he said, was when she said that the accused was not good friends with her late husband, Martin Lowry. All the evidence, counsel said, states

otherwise.

He dubbed as a "tabloid headline" a phrase used by gardai that Mr Quirke had "sex on demand and cash on demand" from Ms Lowry.

Mr Condon said there was no suggestion he had sex on demand. This was, he said, a consenting relationship between adults.

He said Mr Quirke had been coherent and consistent through many hours of questioning by gardai who engaged in "muds and winks" in their questioning. There is also nothing wrong, he said,



Bobby Ryan, whose remains were found in April 2013.

with the financial relationship between Mr Quirke and Ms Lowry.

He reminded the jury of the evidence of Ms Lowry regarding the day of Mr Ryan's disappearance. He arrived at her house on June 2, 2011, some time after 9pm.

The following morning, they awoke at 8am or 8.15am and he left at about 6.30am. She said there was a delay in Mr Ryan's van crossing the cattle grid at the end of her drive but she could not be clear as to how long it took.

He said the prosecution wants the jury to believe this was the time in which Mr Ryan was killed. But he questioned how, on a June morning in the countryside, nobody heard anything. Both Ms Lowry and her mother-in-law, Rita Lowry, had their windows open, he said.

Going into the financial relationship, Mr Condon said there was an attempt to use hindsight to adopt the most negative inferences possible around the fact Ms Lowry left €100,000 to the Quirkes in her will to help with expenses relating to her children. This was done, he said, with a solicitor and was a normal thing to do considering Imelda Quirke is aunt to Ms Lowry's children and they live nearby.

He said there was also nothing unusual in the rental situation at Fawnagowan, or in the fact that Mr Quirke received Single Farm Payments from the EU.

Mr Condon will continue his speech to the jury today.

## 'Public treated like children over property tax warnings'

Fiachra Ó Cionnaith  
Political Correspondent

Fianna Fáil has accused the Government of "treating the public like children" after new documents revealed the cabinet ignored the attorney general's concerns over delaying any local property tax changes.

Fianna Fáil housing spokesperson Darragh O'Brien hit out at the Government decision to delay, insisting it is just about saving votes in the local and European elections, as he claimed cabinet is either "divided or inept" on the issue.

The Irish Examiner yesterday published a detailed cabinet memo outlining serious concerns raised by attorney general Seamus Woulfe over the decision to delay making any decision on local property tax changes for a number of months.

The April 2 memo set out five options the Government could take on whether to increase local property tax in certain areas.

However, it also noted that Mr Woulfe had raised serious concerns about deferring any decision — an option ultimately chosen by the Government — due to three

reasons, namely:

■ Concerns up to 80,000 households exempt from local property tax due to a 2012 act could potentially take legal action, with Mr Woulfe noting "arguably, [any delay] could create an appearance of arbitrariness that could give rise to a challenge from a disgruntled liable person";

■ A prediction that delaying any decision could see the State lose up to €250m in taxpayers' money in a single year;

■ And questions over whether any deferred changes would be in line

with the constitution

After the Government confirmed last week it is making no decision for now on whether to increase local property tax, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe insisted it was not about protecting fine Gael votes in the lead up to next month's local and European elections.

However, Fianna Fáil's Darragh O'Brien yesterday hit out at the claim, saying the leaked cabinet memo shows the cabinet decision went against the attorney general's advice - saying

there is "no other explanation" for the move other than election fears.

"There can't be any other explanation that can be believable, this is about the elections," Mr O'Brien said.

"The way this tax currently is unfair. Everyone agrees that, so it does need to be altered. But cabinet appears to have ignored that and just kicked it down the road."

If they say it is not about the election then there is either massive division in the cabinet, or it is completely and utterly inept on this.

"I would have thought if the attorney general says there are concerns about deferring they should be heard. But they haven't willingly produced those options to be debated."

"They're treating most of the public like children on this, it's mad stuff," he said.

While changes to the local property tax may help solve some of the country's risk causing difficulties for a number of parties in the lead up to the local and European elections next month, and potentially the next general election.

Lines updated 3 times per day 24/7  
www.weather.ie

SIMPLY CALL 1550 123 plus

MUNSTER 830 ULSTER 833  
LEINSTER 831 DUBLIN 834  
CONNACHT 832 SEA AREA 835

WEATHERWATCH

NOON

It will be grey and cloudy across Leinster, Ulster and eastern parts of Munster and Connacht. There will also be rain for parts of Ulster and Leinster. However, western parts of Munster and Connacht will be dry and bright. Dry with sunny spells in the evening for many. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

TONIGHT

The evening will be dry with clear spells for most, although there will be more cloud and possibly a few light showers for eastern parts of Leinster and Ulster. By dawn, it will be dry with clear spells for many but there will be a few mist patches. Moderate winds. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TOMORROW

It will be mostly cloudy in the morning with perhaps one or two spells of rain in south-west Munster. However, sunny spells will become increasingly widespread throughout the day, especially for parts of Connacht and Ulster. A warm day. Moderate south-easterly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

SUN AND MOON TODAY

rises sets Moon rises sets

Sun 06:23 20:26 Moon 16:22 05:43

MOON PHASE

Full Moon 19 April

EXTREMES

Warmest Valentia 12C (54F)  
Coldest Knocknagonea 2C (36F)  
Wettest Cork 1.83 inches

ATLANTIC SITUATION: Lows E and D move north. High V is stationary and retains central pressure. Low F moves east.

EUROPE TODAY

Generally dry and fine across Iberia. Rain and showers are likely across central France, with it staying dry in the Low Countries and Germany. Some rain is expected in the Alpine regions. There will be some showers in Greece with unsettled conditions across Turkey and Cyprus. Settled in Scandinavia.

EUROPE OUTLOOK

Largely settled tomorrow across Europe with heavy showers developing in Spain and Portugal on Wednesday and Thursday. Some showers are likely in Greece and parts of the Balkans at times as well. It is expected to stay largely settled for the rest of the week across Central Europe and Scandinavia.

HIGH TIMES TODAY

time	height	time	height
Galway	03:25 4.5m	16:00 4.7m	
Lislick	04:59 5.4m	17:40 5.7m	
Cobh	03:30 3.6m	16:02 3.7m	
Wexford	04:14 4.2m	16:48 4.3m	
Dublin	09:57 3.8m	22:35 3.8m	
Belfast	09:21 3.2m	22:04 3.2m	

IRELAND YESTERDAY

readings at 12noon	condition	°C	°F
Belfast	drizzle	8	46
Birr	drizzle	7	45
Cork	rain	7	45
Dublin	rain	6	43
Kilkenny	rain	7	45
Rossmore	showers	8	46
Shannon	rain	8	46
Valentia	rain	11	52

Information provided by Meteogroup



# Guidelines for personal injury award levels

Evelyn Ring

Legislation allowing judges to set guidelines on personal injury awards in line with other countries should be in place by the summer, the minister in charge of insurance policy says.

Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Michael D'Arcy, says he will push for a referendum if the judiciary does not deal with the awards issue. In a referendum, the people would decide whether the Oireachtas should give the authority to cap awards, said Mr D'Arcy.

He hopes that would not happen, but the Judicial Council Bill will be passed quickly and judges can agree on guidelines to recalculate award levels.

A key recommendation in the Personal Injury Commission's report last September was that a council should be established to compile guidelines for personal injury awards.

Mr D'Arcy said people are speaking on RTE radio, saying he "had been as pushy as hell" in trying to deal with the issue of soaring insurance premiums.

Former High Court president Nicholas Kearns, who is chairman of the Personal Injury Commission, said the judiciary is not afraid of facing up to reality – they know that change is needed.

The commission found that personal injury payouts here are 4.4 times higher than in Britain.

Mr D'Arcy said people are getting tens of thousands of euros for what he described as "pretty inconsequential injuries".

Mr Justice Kearns said judges would find the capping of awards preferable to politicians fixing tariffs.

Mr D'Arcy said his objective is to get the planned legislation through both Houses of the Oireachtas after Easter. At that point, he said, the Judicial Council could be established.

"I will be pushing as hard as I can to get the Attorney General to the Chief Justice to ensure that the first piece of work done is the recalculation of the guidelines," he said.

His priority is to ensure that businesses which are struggling because of the cost of insurance cover stays

in business. He said Ireland now has the highest level of personal injury awards in the world because no one shouted "stop".

Mr Justice Kearns said judges are not afraid of facing up to the fact that change is required.

However, the Court of Appeal can not "teach down" to the Circuit Court. An appeal

from the Circuit Court went to the High Court and there it ended.

Mr Justice Kearns said access from the Circuit Court to the Court of Appeal would be on a point of law only.

He wants to see the Judicial Council established quickly and pointed out that there is a provision in the bill that would allow the council to provide educational courses for members of the judiciary.

Judicial Council Bill to authorise the judicial council to provide indicative guidelines well then for heaven's sake, let it be put in now and get this bill enacted into law straight away," he said.

Mr D'Arcy said insurance amendment guidelines are being prepared for the report stage in the Senate for the week after Easter.

Mr Justice Kearns said guidelines could be issued relatively quickly if the judiciary decides that they could provide them on an interim basis while the legislation is being finalised.



Nicholas Kearns: Enact compo guide bill straight away.

## Defendant insists glass wasn't used in assault

Liam Heylin

A man claimed he was followed down a lane and struck with a glass but the man, who admitted assault, was adamant that he did not use a glass.

Cian Duggan, of 36 Killiney Heights, Knocknaheeny, Cork, pleaded guilty to a charge of assault causing harm to Timmy Dunciffe on October 9 2017 at Winthrop Lane.

The victim claimed the defendant glassed him. Frank Buttiner, solicitor, said the defendant was putting his hands up and acknowledging responsibility for the assault but was adamant that he did not use a glass.

Mr Dunciffe was followed down an alley surrounded by the defendant and others. "I was glassed down on top of my head by Cian," said Mr Dunciffe.

Mr Buttiner said: "My client said he did not use any glass to strike you."

The injured party said there was video evidence of the incident from CCTV. "It clearly shows me being surrounded and attacked," the injured party said.

Mr Buttiner said: "There was provocative behaviour on your part." Mr Dunciffe said: "I believe the video shows that is a lie."

Mr Buttiner put it again to the injured party that he provoked the defendant. Mr Dunciffe replied: "I was surrounded and attacked."

He accepted that he had not seen the CCTV. Sergeant John Kelleher said both the defendant and the injured party were prosecuted arising out of an alleged incident previously but all charges were struck out against both of them.

Judge Olann Kelleher said it was to Duggan's credit that he was pleading guilty to the serious charge of assault causing harm.

"But he was the aggressor and caused the difficulty on the occasion," the judge said, adding that Duggan, aged 26, could do 200 hours of community service instead of four months in prison.

Set Kelleher said CCTV showed Cian Duggan appearing to throw something at Mr Dunciffe, who returned back from the Balkans St on to Winthrop Lane.

Mr Buttiner said the defendant had hit the victim in the previous disputed incident but ultimately convictions were not recorded against anyone.

## Disqualified 'stoned' driver led gardai on chase

Eddie Cassidy

A young mother disqualified from driving failed to stop at a Garda checkpoint and was pursued by a patrol car for 45 minutes from West Cork to Cork city while she was "stoned" from cannabis.

In what Judge James McNulty said was a callous disregard for the lives of gardai and other road users, 20-year-old Rachel O'Donovan passed through red lights, overtook cars at high speed, drove through red lights, drove on the wrong side of the road and did a handbrake turn at Dennehy's Cross in Cork City in a determined attempt to escape gardai.

The mother of one, from 21 Glenfield, Dublin Hill, Cork faced seven charges of dangerous driving, not having insurance, and driving while disqualified.

At Bandon District Court yesterday, the judge said that her behaviour was quite shocking and she had put numerous lives at risk on a Saturday night/Sunday morning on November 17/18 last.

O'Donovan, the mother of a one-year-old child, was sentenced to 90 days' imprisonment and disqualified from driving for six years.

A nail bar employee, she had previously been banned at Middleton District Court last June for not having insurance and dangerous driving.

Judge McNulty spoke of O'Donovan's callous and irresponsible behaviour during a Garda pursuit from Innishannon to Cork City which commenced at 11.30pm and continued until 12.30am.

"The facts are, while unaided, she was driving after smoking a joint, so she was driving while stoned at the time," said Judge McNulty.

"Her driving put the lives of many others at risk." Prosecuting, Sgt Brian Harte said that after being arrested for drug driving, O'Donovan's blood analysis

showed 7.8 milligrams/100 mls. The legal limit is 5mgs.

He said gardai performing a checkpoint at Laherreen outside Innishannon saw a car approach. It failed to stop and gardai gave chase with blue lights and siren activated. The driver of the car went through a red traffic light at speed and drove through Innishannon village on the wrong side of the road.

Heading towards Cork, the car again drove on the wrong side and had to swerve to avoid approaching traffic.

Sgt Harte said that, at Barna Cross, the driver of the car overtook vehicles at speed and drove on the wrong side. It also drove on the wrong side of a roundabout approaching the CTT junction.

At Dennehy's Cross, the driver of the car performed a handbrake turn and continued along Model Farm Rd on the wrong side and through red traffic lights.

The driver headed towards the city and finally came to a stop at Shanakiel where O'Donovan tried to flee but was apprehended.

Solicitor Eamonn Fleming said O'Donovan had travelled to West Cork with a now former boyfriend who had been buying a car. The man took her phone and pressured her into driving the second car to the city. She had smoked a joint with him, the solicitor said.

He also said the defendant, who pleaded guilty to all charges, regretted her behaviour.

Mr Fleming said, by the grace of God, there were no injuries and pleaded that a community service could be considered as a punishment. He asked the judge not to consider a custodial sentence but Judge McNulty said it was "time for her to go away".

He said they were serious offences which warranted serious penalties and a community service would be inappropriate.

Bail was fixed for appeal purposes.



Rachel O'Donovan, aged 20, at Bandon District Court, Co. Cork. She failed to stop at a Garda checkpoint and was pursued by a patrol car for 45 minutes from West Cork to Cork City while she was 'stoned' from cannabis. The judge said she showed callous disregard for the lives of others. Picture: Dan Linehan

## Publican fined for not allowing garda to enter premises at 1am

Liam Heylin

A Garda trying to get into a locked pub to carry out a late-night inspection heard loud shouting from inside as he was left standing outside. Yet the May 1 Patricia O'Leary, aged 57, of Cork Arms, MacCurtain St, pleaded guilty to a charge that she did fail/refuse to

admit a member of An Garda Síochána, in the execution of his duty, demanding entry to the licensed premises.

Sergeant John Kelleher said the same publican had 11 previous convictions for various breaches of the Intoxicating Liquor Act, including counts related to having people on the premises after closing time and

failing to admit gardai.

Judge Olann Kelleher convicted and fined Ms O'Leary €750, but warned: "She is putting her licence at risk."

Justin Condon, solicitor, said the publican accepted responsibility for not allowing the guards in on the night, but added: "She is adamant she did not hear anything from the garda trying

to get in]. She was downstairs. She had works going on in the toilets."

Sgt Kelleher said that the garda had called at 1am.

Mr Condon said the man doing the work on the toilets was from Meath and staying nearby.

"He came in and had a pint and went down to finish the

work – putting on some knobs or something of that nature," he said.

Sgt Kelleher said that Garda Eric Stafford called to the Cork Arms on MacCurtain St at 1am on July 13, 2018.

"Gda Stafford attempted to conduct an inspection of the Cork Arms public house," said Sgt Kelleher. "He could

quite clearly hear talking from inside the bar."

"Gda Stafford began knocking loudly on the front door and the noise came to an abrupt stop. He could hear persons inside the premises shouting other patrons."

Gda Stafford loudly identified himself as a member of An Garda Síochána, but was not permitted

entry.

"On September 15, Gda Stafford interviewed Patricia O'Leary. She stated that, on the night in question, she was getting work done on the toilets and did not hear gardai knocking. Gda Stafford refutes this, stating that he could clearly hear persons inside the premises shouting other patrons."

## Panelling from Titanic's sister ship to be auctioned

Rebecca Black

Ornate panelling from the Titanic's sister ship will be sold at auction next month.

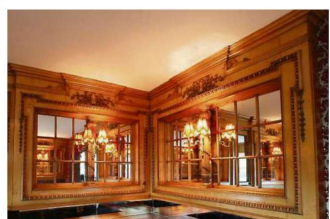
Taken from yesterday's auction at the Balcloona state rooms on the Britannic, the wooden overlay will be centre stage at the two-day auction at the Heriot Hotel, Killiney, Co. Laois, on May 1-2.

Rediscovered after their use in a Dublin city centre cinema up until 1972, the panelling from the first-class lounge and the second-class library are expected to sell for €200,000 each.

Launched in 1914, two years after the ill-fated maiden voyage of sister ship RMS Titanic, the HMHS Britannic was intended to be a supertanker.

However, during the First World War, it was requisitioned as a hospital ship and the fittings were removed.

In November 1916, en route to collect troops wounded in the Balkans campaign, the ship hit a mine laid by a German U-boat and sank in the Aegean Sea. The wreck lay at a depth of 120m for 59 years, until it was discovered by explorer Jacques Cousteau.



Maple panelling from the HMHS Britannic's second-class library. Picture: Niall Mullen Signature Auction/PA

The Britannic's stored luxurious furniture and fittings were auctioned in Belfast in 1919 and ornate, carved wood panelling, from both the first-class lounge and second-class library, was used to adorn the La Scala Theatre and Opera House in Dublin, which later became the Capitol Cinema.

They remained in place until the building's demolition in 1972, making way for what is now Penney's, and the panelling was installed

in a private residence near Dublin.

Manufactured by Harland and Wolff, in Belfast, the panelling was carved to a design by Arthur Henry Drummond, who designed the fittings in the Titanic) and features the ship number and panelling number on the reverse of each piece.

"These pieces are identical to the designs used on the Titanic," said Niall Mullen.

Victoriamoeniauctions.ie or titanicssisterauction2019.com.

## Woman, 30, jailed for thefts

Liam Heylin

A Cork woman who has been convicted of shoplifting more than 100 times was back before the court yesterday for sentencing on another spree of thefts.

Judge Olann Kelleher said he would take into consideration the background difficulties of Margaret Deasy, aged 30, of Cork Simon Community. The judge said he also had to consider the safety and welfare of shop owners and the people they employed.

Deasy came before Cork District Court, where she pleaded guilty to stealing goods from shops in Cork City nine times since February. Judge Kelleher said an overall jail sentence of 10 months was appropriate.

As well as the thefts, Deasy was charged with threatening towards gardai and refusing to leave the scene of a disturbance when directed by gardai. Sergeant John Kelleher said this incident occurred at Lower Oliver Plunkett St on January 11.

Sgt Kelleher said gardai directed a group of approximately 20 people to leave the area and all of

them except Deasy agreed to go.

"She stood in the middle of the road blocking traffic. When directed to leave the area she replied to the guards: 'Not a hope, go fuck yourselves,'" Sgt Kelleher told the court.

Deasy had 146 previous convictions, of which 112 were for theft. She had eight for engaging in threatening behaviour.

Her latest shoplifting offences between February and last Saturday afternoon saw her steal hundreds of euro worth of goods from shops in Cork City centre, including Holland & Barrett, Debenhams, Marks & Spencer, Aldi at the Elysian, and Mr Price on North Main St.

Mr Buttiner said Deasy had consulted with him at length on Friday and indicated that she would be pleading guilty to all of the theft charges and then try to get on to a rehabilitation programme.

Events overtook her as a result of further shoplifting on Saturday afternoon which caused her to be arrested and come to court in custody yesterday.

### KILKENNY

## FASHION & ACCESSORIES SALE NOW ON

\*Only in selected lines

www.kilkennyshop.com



# Department accepts women did work in laundry

Conall Ó Fátharta

The Department of Justice has said it now accepts that "on the balance of probabilities", 14 women with whom it was in dispute did work in the High Park Magdalene Laundry post-1980.

The *Irish Examiner* first reported in February 2018 that the women, who were in the An Grián training centre post-1980 and worked in the High Park Magdalene laundry in Dublin, had

yet to receive an offer of redress from the department — despite being accepted to the newly widened scheme.

The Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) in the Department of Justice, which administers the redress scheme, had told the women the reason for the delay was that the department was still reviewing the redress institution — the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge — had stated that it stopped sending women to the An Grián to work in the

main laundry in 1980.

The legal team for nine of the women had requested information on the evidence given by the order to the RJU to support this claim from the department on three separate occasions but was refused.

These women also wrote directly to Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan asking that he personally intervene and instruct officials in the RJU to provide them with redress. They pointed out that

the order's claim that women did not work in An Grián after 1980 was "incorrect".

"This information, the details of which your officials have consistently refused to share with us, is incorrect," stated the letter. "We know because we were there."

Human rights lawyer Colin Smith pointed out that the High Court accepted in 2017 that children worked at High Park into the 1980s and said the delay in granting redress was "obscene".

The women had learned that a potential reason for the 1980 cut-off point is a claim that a separate laundry was constructed at An Grián that year and that no girls were sent to work in the main laundry as a result.

However, the *Irish Examiner* obtained documents shortly after the laundry was constructed "in the early months of 1984" at a cost of £17,001.

A statement, the Department of Justice said that,

after interviews with four of the affected women, it accepted women who were in An Grián post-1980 were likely to have also worked in the laundry. It said the order has not changed its position on the matter.

Two of the women have now received offers while the other two women will receive them "shortly".

The department said: "Arising from the interviews with those applicants who agreed to participate in the

interview process, the department has been enabled to come to a general conclusion that, on the balance of probabilities, certain residents of An Grián were likely to have worked in the laundry of St Mary's Magdalen Institution after mid-1980. Therefore, the department will assume that the remaining cases on that basis and will be in communication with the women concerned, through their solicitor, in the next fortnight."



Arian Hanna at Malin Head dressed as a Tusken Raider with his son.

Star Wars tribute as road renamed R2D2

A road in Donegal has been renamed the R2D2 in tribute to one of Star Wars' most famous characters.

New signs were unveiled on what was the R242 near Malin Head in Co Donegal to mark the location where scenes from the most recent instalment of the franchise, *The Last Jedi*, were filmed.

A replica R2D2 droid joined other Star Wars characters on the road through the scenic Inishowen peninsula has been approved by Donegal County Council.

## Ireland offline: Broadband plan delays

■ 500,000 homes and businesses await high-speed internet access

Juno McEnroe and Eoin English

A further delay in agreeing a broadband solution for more than 500,000 homes and premises has been deemed another blow for rural Ireland.

Communications Minister Richard Bruton confirmed that proposals for the National Broadband Plan will not go before Cabinet today — despite a pledge by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to decide on plans this week.

The longer the delays on agreeing a contract to roll out the high-speed broadband for rural areas, the higher the costs for the plan will go. Flannia Füll's Timmy Dooley insisted last night.

But amid criticism, Mr Bruton refused to explain why Government agreement on the plan is further delayed. "We are close to completion on that, both with our own department which has prime responsibility, but also the department of public expenditure. They have an input into this. And I believe we will shortly be in a position to bring recommendations to Government."

"Clearly, there are a lot of issues at the moment which are demanding Government concentration and this is one, it is a very significant decision. It will need the time and space to reach that decision. I know that the Taoiseach is determined that time and space be provided."

Mr Bruton said there are "other affairs that are happening simultaneously" in the Government, that the Department of Public Expenditure needs to also have input and there is "a determination to reach a decision in a timely way". He added: "It has been acknowledged that this isn't a cheap investment and Government has to make a decision that this is

an investment which we are willing to make."

The latest stumbling block comes after the Taoiseach committed in February to making a decision on the plan before Easter. Since then, just one company is now left in the process to deliver high-speed broadband to 540,000 homes and premises, mainly in rural Ireland.

It has been suggested that the cost of the project could reach €3bn. Flannia Füll argues the Government should have intervened more than a year ago and that the ESB also has the skills to roll out the broadband facilities.

Mr Doyle said: "The longer this goes on, the more delay, costs will keep rising."

The opposition communications spokesmen added: "I believe this is a disgraceful betrayal of the people who have been waiting for so long and who depend on this roll-out. Hundreds of thousands of households and businesses in the country are waiting for the Minister and the Government to get their act together on this long overdue project."

Tánaiste Simon Coveney yesterday said a final decision on the plan will be made within weeks, not months: "It's not on the long finger. There is not going to be a long delay here. There is some more work to do before Minister Bruton can bring the proposals to the cabinet but we're not talking about months here — we're talking about weeks."

Meanwhile, recommendations on the concerns of former residents of mother and baby homes will be examined by the Government today

## Humanities and hoops



Humanities in the European Research Area announced in Dublin that it will invest €20m in 20 research teams from across Europe as part of a joint research programme which aims to generate new insights into major social, cultural, and political challenges facing Europe and the world. Reacting at the announcement were performers Laura Rossi and Maria Corcoran, Dublin Circus Agency. Picture: Marc O'Sullivan

## Directly elected mayors will benefit cities, says Varadkar

Eoin English and Kevin O'Neill

Directly elected mayors in Cork, Limerick and Waterford will give the cities extra clout when it comes to securing government funding, according to the Taoiseach.

Leo Varadkar also said he believes there is enough time over the next six weeks to convince voters in these areas to vote yes in the Government's plebiscite for directly elected mayors on May 24 — the same day as the local and European elections and the referendum on the regulation of divorce.

The committee to oversee the plebiscite public information campaign, which will be chaired by former judge of the High Court, Henry Abbott, launches its campaign today.

In an interview with the *Irish Examiner* ahead of Fine Gael's launch of its yes campaign, the Taoiseach defended the Government's delay in publishing information about the role and powers of directly elected mayors.

"There are six weeks between now and May 24 and we think that is enough time for people to be informed about the proposal, and it's not complicated," he said. "It's not like a European treaty or something like that. It's a very simple proposition," he said.

Under the Government's proposal, people in Cork City, Limerick and Waterford will be asked if they want directly elected mayors.

The directly elected mayor/lord mayor would assume some of the executive functions currently held by a chief executive and the representative role currently held by the mayor/lord mayor. They would also have additional functions, not currently performed, such as preparing a five-year programme of the city.

Responsibilities would include representing the local authority area locally, nationally, and internationally; acting on behalf of the council in legal actions; chairing the joint policing committee, and ensuring that the chief executive im-

plements the council's plans effectively.

The first elections will take place in 2021, with the first mayor/lord mayor taking office in 2022, and a half-year term, and five years from 2024.

The mayor would be paid €130,000, and have the right to appoint two advisers. The cost of the office could be up to €450,000 a year in each of the three areas.

"This is a big change," said Mr Varadkar. "It means that if people want it, they will get to elect their own mayor and that mayor will be accountable to the public. And if that mayor doesn't do a good job, well, you can boot them out at the next election."

"That person will have a big mandate — Cork is a big city: the person elected is probably going to have 50,000 to 60,000 votes. They will carry weight when they represent the city around the world, but also when they come to central government looking for things to be done around housing and transport and investment. It's going to be much harder for central government not to

listen to that person, not to do something."

Mr Varadkar said a directly elected mayor would be a serious blow to the status of the Government's plans to make the city a "counterbalance to Dublin" over the next 20 years.

The Taoiseach said that the historic title and ceremonial status of the 800-year-old office of Cork's Lord Mayor will be retained and protected in law.

Mr Abbott said: "It's very important that people have access to factual and impartial information before they vote on the issue."

The public information campaign includes:

- A website with guides and videos: [www.mayors.gov.ie](http://www.mayors.gov.ie);
- Guides on the plebiscites which will be sent out to households in the relevant local authority areas;
- A newspaper, radio, and social media advertising campaign;
- A poster campaign;
- Public information meetings in each of the relevant local authority areas.

## Pelosi: NI peace more important than UK's trade deal

Fiachra O Cionnaith  
Political Correspondent

Any potential trade deal between the UK and US will be blocked if Britain damages or dilutes the Good Friday Agreement, one of America's most powerful politicians has warned.

US House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi issued the warning to headline Brexiters before her two-day visit to Ireland, which starts today.

Speaking at a London School of Economics event last night, Ms Pelosi said the belief that the Good Friday Agreement and peace in the North remain at the forefront of US priorities.

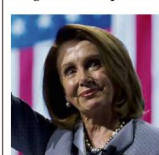
And while US president Donald Trump — who has constantly clashed with Ms Pelosi — is emphasising trade deals, she said that, for ordinary Americans there can be no deal with the UK if the Good Friday Agreement is damaged by Brexit.

"We made it clear to all, if there is any harm to the Good Friday Agreement, no trade treaty," she said.

"I have to say though every single person, including Theresa May who we spoke to on the phone, everyone said not even worry about that. It is not possible that we would even go there."

The US house of representatives speaker said it is "likely that Britain and Ireland is likely to be closely watched by Mr Trump as speculation continues over the potential of a UK-US post-Brexit trade deal."

In recent days, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has urged Britain to instead agree a customs union-style Brexit with the EU which would allow British goods to enter EU trade deals — an offer Mr Varadkar said last week is "a better deal" than anything on the Trump table.



Nancy Pelosi: Potential UK-US trade deal will be blocked.

## Ex-soldier to face NI murder charge

A former soldier is to be prosecuted for the murder of a teenage boy who was shot dead in 1972. Northern Ireland's Public Prosecution Service has announced.

The veteran, identified as Soldier B, will face the charge of murdering 15-year-old Daniel Hegarty on July 31, 1972, during what was known as Operation Motorman. Daniel Hegarty was shot twice in the head by Soldier B. The former soldier will also be charged with wounding a child after Daniel's cousin, Christopher Hegarty, then aged 17, was also shot and injured in the incident.

## Siptu balloting members for strike

Siptu Health will begin balloting up to 17,000 members working as health care assistants, chefs, laboratory aides, theatre operatives and in other support grades for strike action in 36 major hospitals from Monday. The move to extend the ballot to all Siptu Health staff follows a meeting of the Siptu Health Support Group on Monday night. Siptu Health Division Organiser Paul Bell said tensions have been heightened by the recent changes to the Siptu Health overtime ban and announce a three-month recruitment embargo.

## UCD clinical studies centre for Wexford

UCD, the academic partner in the Ireland East Hospital Group, has opened its first clinical research centre outside Dublin in Wexford General Hospital. Clinical research aims to discover ways to improve medical care and the quality of life for patients who are living with chronic illness. The new UCD clinical research centre at Wexford General Hospital will link to the comprehensive research and support provided by the UCD School of Medicine and to wider studies carried out at the Mater, St Vincent's, and the National Maternity Hospital.

## Plebiscites on a directly elected Lord Mayor/Mayor with executive functions for

Cork City Council (Lord Mayor)  
Limerick City and County Council (Mayor)  
Waterford City and County Council (Mayor)

On May 24 2019, the electors of the administrative areas of Cork City, Limerick City and County, and Waterford City and County will be asked in separate plebiscites to vote on a Government proposal for a Mayor/Lord Mayor with executive functions to be directly elected by the people in their area.

This public vote is called a plebiscite. This is an electoral poll consulting the public on a proposal. The plebiscite will take place on the same day as the local and European elections and the referendum on the regulation of divorce.

Under the Government's proposal, the directly elected mayor would represent the entire council area, serve for a 5-year term, and would have additional executive functions, including:

- (a) some or all of the functions now performed by the Chief Executive
- (b) such other functions as may be provided by or under statute

If the proposal is approved by a majority of voters in a council's administrative area, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government will submit a report to the Oireachtas with legislative proposals for an election of a Lord Mayor/Mayor with executive functions by the people of that administrative area. The Oireachtas will then consider the legislation.

If the proposal is not approved by a majority of voters in a council's administrative area, the current structures in that council could not be changed without legislation.

Information on the Government's proposals and the plebiscite  
Information about the plebiscite is available at: [www.mayors.gov.ie](http://www.mayors.gov.ie) or by contacting the relevant council. People can also request printed copies of information material by emailing: [mayors@housing.gov.ie](mailto:mayors@housing.gov.ie)

Eligibility to vote in the plebiscite  
People can vote in the plebiscite if they are on the Register of Electors in one of these administrative areas. People can check if they are registered to vote at: [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

People can apply to be included on the Supplement to the Register of Electors to be eligible to vote if their council receives their application form by Tuesday, 07 May 2019. For those seeking inclusion on either the supplement to the postal or special voters lists, the relevant application forms will need to be received by their council by Sunday, 28 April 2019.

## Woman presented fake medical certs to court

A 40-year-old woman who presented a number of fake medical certificates in a court hearing has been advised to provide a minimum of €5,000 to avoid a significant jail sentence.

The false certificates had been used by Karen Nixon, pictured right, to seek adjournments for charges relating to driving while disqualified.

The certificates indicated that Ms Nixon, from Forest Rest, Kilbrittain, Co Cork, had been suffering from cancer, had bone marrow transplant and was receiving chemotherapy. However, the claims were not true.

Judge James McNulty, at Bandon District Court yesterday, said she had "some doubts as to the veracity of the evidence" and said she was "indulgent on false premises that would tick the boxes of a lot of judges".

Her solicitor, Plunkett Taaffe, was asked by the judge if Ms Nixon was offering any proposal to make amends for her offences. Mr Taaffe said her difficulties had stemmed from alcoholism and she had been left without any supports which caused a litany of problems which led to her offending. The solicitor said it was an unfortunate case but the judge disagreed and said Ms Nixon was a



persistent offender. The judge said the courts take a serious view of the offences and furthermore Ms Nixon had also misled a person who compiled a probation report for the courts. Judge McNulty asked: "Is there any realisation or any acceptance, for a moment, that someone should make amends?"

Mr Taaffe said Ms Nixon, with the exception of a brother who backed her, was not able to get any family support and, financially, did not have access to funds.

The judge, stating that a substantial fine would have to be paid for Ms Nixon to escape indictment, for herself, her children, and her family of serving a significant prison sentence.

Ms Nixon is to face trial on November 7 in relation to 10 charges of fraud in that she dishonestly induced sums of money from a third party in 2013/2014. She is pleaded guilty to the charges.

Her solicitor, Fergus Appleby, said an issue had occurred in the courts previously where a plea of guilty had been entered in error by another solicitor. The case is being contested.

## Council criticised after cancelling drag event

Kevin O'Neill

A drag storytelling event at a Dublin library was cancelled due to degrading comments made online about performers and library staff.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council cancelled the Drag Story Time event, which was due to take place at Deansgrange Library on June 26 as part of the Pride festival.

It was described as "the first-ever drag story time event, providing families with a safe and unashamedly queer role models".

Glitter Hole, the drag collective which was to run the event, criticised the council's approach and said it has been subjected to "extremely violent homophobia" in recent days.

The library initially said it was cancelled due to an event due to concerns about whether it was age appropriate.

However, it has since clarified that this was not the case and that, instead, due to "significant concerns" about the high level of degrading, inappropriate comments on social media about the performers and library staff.

Dir Libraries object to homophobia in its form and, as per our social media guidelines, we reserve the right to remove content or

comments that may be considered offensive, including defamatory or abusive comments to the council council said in a statement.

"Health and safety is always at the forefront of our concerns. We would like to reassure the public that this event is age-appropriate and that the performers are safe. Dir Libraries remains safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for all."

Glitter Hole said it would be back in the last month and asked to put on one of its drag storytelling performances on June 26 for this year's Pride festival.

It said over the past several years there has been "unprecedented violence against the LGBTQ+ community from a frighteningly large group of bigots" and that the council's decision to cancel the event was "a risk in this scenario".

"We have performed drag stories for three times now and the response has always been entirely positive. We believe in the importance of this event and are determined to continue presenting it," Glitter Hole stated on Twitter.



# Gardaí unhappy as spotlight turned on representative body

**Cormac O'Keefe**  
Security Correspondent  
Comment

Civilianisation, Training, Repositioning, Staffing, Investment.

These are the issues that should be dominating the agenda at the three-day annual conference of frontline garda supervisors in Co. Cavan, which started yesterday.

And Garda Commissioner

Drew Harris and Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan should be on the receiving end of the ire of middle-ranking officers.

Given that today will be the commissioner's first address to a Garda staff conference since he was appointed last September, that should be, in normal circumstances, the focus of both delegates and the media.

Putting the commissioner and the minister under the spotlight should be the

officers and representatives of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI).

But this time, it is the association that is under the spotlight and senior officials are most definitely not enjoying the experience.

Allegations erupted just days before the conference began and have been aired and reported extensively in public.

They include allegations that a Garda investigation is

under way regarding a member of AGSI involved in doing private consultancy work — behaviour prohibited by gardai.

Further allegations have also been made, all of which are detailed under protected disclosure legislation.

The garda against whom the claims have been made has said he was not informed that any investigation involving him was under way.

The national executive of the association held a lengthy

meeting on Sunday to discuss the matter and said the investigation should be allowed to take its course.

The controversy reflects deep and serious divisions within what has traditionally been a relatively stable and unified Garda staff association executive.

Internal disputes and grievances have been a feature down the years of the Garda Representative Association, which represents rank and file members.

Underlining the scale of the problem at the AGSI conference is the absence of two senior association members, absences that have sent ripple effects among delegates and a clear message to the media.

The fact that all of this is happening in public at the AGSI's landmark gathering — one attended by the justice minister yesterday evening and the commissioner today — is deeply embarrassing and worrying for the body.

One senior delegate, in the association a long time, told the *Irish Examiner* the conference had been "ruined" by the controversy.

He said the problem had been rumbling for "a long time" and said the way it had emerged in the run-up to the conference was "terrible" for the association.

It is unclear how these allegations are going to play out and what is the truth of them. The investigation into the garda are at an early

stage. Minister Flanagan made very pointed comments about the controversy and its impact on the association in his address.

He stressed that he needed to know he could "trust" that the association represented its members.

That is as fundamental as it gets for a representative body.

And that's not the end of it. Today, the commissioner arrives at the association and will have something further to say.

## Parking offences breach of data

Eoin English

Cork City Council has reported a data breach to the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) after a councillor claimed that parking offence warning letters were found outside City Hall.

The batch of 21 final warning letters, all dated April 4, 2019, relate to outstanding fixed charge penalty notices and contain the names, addresses and car registration numbers of several motorists, and the alleged parking offences.

Fianna Fáil Cllr Ken O'Flynn says the documents were handed to him by a member of the public who claims to have found them on the Anglesea St side of City Hall recently.

While the council has launched an extensive internal investigation to establish what occurred, the risk to those whose personal data is involved has been described as "low-level".

The warning letters are linked to alleged parking offences ranging from failure to display a valid parking disc, failure to register a valid park by phone parking payment, unlawful parking in a loading bay, and parking on double yellow lines.

It advises motorists that they have been issued with a fixed charge penalty notice in respect of an alleged parking offence, and have until tomorrow, Wednesday April 17, to pay the fine.

The motorists are warned that if they fail to make the payment by the deadline, legal proceedings will be initiated against them which may result in a criminal conviction, a fine on conviction of up to €1,000 and "associated legal costs".

They go on to set out various payment options, including online, an automated phone payment system, by cash, cheque or post.

The letters are all printed on the reverse side of official headed council paper, leading to speculation that they may have been set aside when the printing mistake was discovered.

Mr O'Flynn said he emailed the council's chief executive, Ann Doherty, asking her to explain what he described as a "major data breach".

He has also contacted the office of the DPC, which said it would contact the city council about the matter.

In his email to Ms Doherty, Mr O'Flynn said: "I am appalled and incensed that documentation of such a highly sensitive nature could be discarded in a public place by or on behalf of Cork City Council."

At a time when all elected members are subjected to such rigorous GDPR constraints, I find it alarming in the extreme that the executive of Cork City Council could allow this situation to occur and I would request that you make an immediate statement to elected members on the matter at the next council meeting."

The council confirmed that it has reported a data breach to the DPC and has contacted Mr O'Flynn requesting further details and copies of the documents so that a full investigation could be undertaken. It has also requested the return of the records.



Minister Charlie Flanagan, sitting alongside Cormac Moylan, president, AGSI, addresses the delegates at their annual conference at the Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan yesterday afternoon. Pictures: Lorraine Teevan

## Gardaí forced to google new laws

**Cormac O'Keefe**  
Security Correspondent in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

Middle-ranking gardai claim they have to resort to googling information about new laws they have to enforce because of a lack of training.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors said members are also using Citizens Information centres to help educate themselves.

Speaking at their annual conference in Cavan, AGSI president Cormac Moylan said members were not prepared for important laws introduced this year, such as the Domestic Violence Act and the Road Traffic Amendment Act (also known as the Clancy law).

The former piece of legislation introduces a range of provisions including a new offence of coercive control, while the latter act penalises car owners who knowingly allow their vehicles to be used by unaccompanied learner drivers.

That act is named after mother and daughter Geraldine and Louise Clancy who lost their lives in December 2015 when unaccompanied driver Susan Gleeson lost control of her car in Co. Cork.

Opening their three-day conference, Mr Moylan said the lack of training in new legislation was causing gardai to search the internet and check with Citizens Information.

"A lot of serious and pressing



Delegates at the annual AGSI conference at the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, listen as Minister Charlie Flanagan addresses them.

issues here [at the conference]," he said. "I have 140 delegates coming down from the 32 AGSI branches and they have serious concerns that have developed over the last 12 months."

"This is our forum, to get their issues out, issues in relation to training, the new domestic violence legislation, the new road traffic act with the Clancy law, we are still waiting for training in regard to that. Some of us

are not going to get training in that until next November. We are accessing Google and citizen information services to upskill ourselves, that is what we do."

He explained: "We have been left in situations without any real time capacity to change. With investment and IT — I am going out to do multi-agency checkpoints and there are state agencies and they have the best of technology and equipment; we are more or less going back to the desk with the ink and quill."

He said they wanted a firm commitment on IT training from the minister.

"In 2012, I was told that there is this new resource model that will be rolled out in six months," Mr Moylan said. "We are now in 2019 and it is on pilot in one division. That's not acceptable. In all modern organisations they invest in IT but we are 10 years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

He said they wanted a firm commitment on IT training from the minister.

"In 2012, I was told that there is this new resource model that will be rolled out in six months," Mr Moylan said. "We are now in 2019 and it is on pilot in one division. That's not acceptable. In all modern organisations they invest in IT but we are 10 years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

He said they wanted a firm commitment on IT training from the minister.

"In 2012, I was told that there is this new resource model that will be rolled out in six months," Mr Moylan said. "We are now in 2019 and it is on pilot in one division. That's not acceptable. In all modern organisations they invest in IT but we are 10 years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

He said they wanted a firm commitment on IT training from the minister.

"In 2012, I was told that there is this new resource model that will be rolled out in six months," Mr Moylan said. "We are now in 2019 and it is on pilot in one division. That's not acceptable. In all modern organisations they invest in IT but we are 10 years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

He said they wanted a firm commitment on IT training from the minister.

"In 2012, I was told that there is this new resource model that will be rolled out in six months," Mr Moylan said. "We are now in 2019 and it is on pilot in one division. That's not acceptable. In all modern organisations they invest in IT but we are 10 years behind."

Responding to the concerns, the minister said Charlie Flanagan said: "I believe that the matter of ongoing training, whether it is through the Garda training or training or An Garda Síochána, I am essential. I accept that the speed of how new legislation is enacted does create new obligations and practices for An Garda Síochána. I am satisfied, however, that the Garda service is up to ensuring that there is a proper level of training."

The minister said that promotions were also being progressed in the organisation, with almost 450 sergeants and inspectors being promoted and allocated to frontline policing duties since October 2018.

"This includes the increase of 110 Sergeants and 81 Inspectors provided for in Budget 2019," he said. "In addition, I understand preparations are underway for a new sergeant competition to be held towards the end of this year."

## Minister: I need a body that I can trust

■ Refers to allegations engulfing body for middle-ranking gardai

**Cormac O'Keefe**  
Security Correspondent in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan has told middle-ranking gardai that he needs to "trust" their representative body.

In a reference to allegations engulfing the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors at their annual conference in Co. Cavan, Mr Flanagan said he realised that the association is undergoing "some difficulties".

He aims that a senior member in the association was under Garda investigation in relation to allegedly doing private contract work erupted at the weekend, before the conference began yesterday. Other allegations have also been made and these have been sent as a protected disclosure.

The allegations and their emergence in the media just before the conference, have raised deep divisions within the association.

Two senior members of the AGSI have not attended the conference — an absence that has been attributed, at least in part, to the allegations.

The national executive of the AGSI met for almost four hours on Sunday to discuss the matter and issued a statement saying the Garda investigation should be let run its course. AGSI president Cormac Moylan said those "differences" within all associations and he is "disappointed" the two members were not able to attend.

AGSI general secretary John Jacob said the person at the centre of allegations is "entitled to anonymity" and that, in the past, the association has "supported" people against whom allegations have been made.

Addressing the 140 delegates attending the conference, Mr Flanagan made extended and pointed references to the controversy: "I do of course know that this year, as an association, you are having some difficulties. I know that some of your senior members have felt unable to attend. I just want to say immediately, to all of you here, and I added to them, that I am looking forward to seeing everything resolved."

The minister said: "As Garda sergeants and inspectors, you need a strong association, in which you can have confidence. As a minister, I need a strong association which I can trust represents you. And as a country, we need a Garda leadership which we know adheres to the highest standards. So as I said, I look forward to the resolution of the issues at hand."

Responding to concerns raised by the allegations, Mr Moylan said that, on learning of the allegations, the association followed the lead of the minister, that the complaint make a protected disclosure.

He said "everyone is innocent until proven guilty" and that due process should be allowed to take place.

He said he was "not sure if it had been clearly articulated by those who were absent from the conference if it was related to the allegations: 'The delegates that have spoken to me are not concerned about those allegations and they want to get on with the agenda.'"

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

He said due process should be allowed to take its course.

Minister Flanagan made extended and pointed references to the controversy: "I do of course know that this year, as an association, you are having some difficulties. I know that some of your senior members have felt unable to attend. I just want to say immediately, to all of you here, and I added to them, that I am looking forward to seeing everything resolved."

The minister said: "As Garda sergeants and inspectors, you need a strong association, in which you can have confidence. As a minister, I need a strong association which I can trust represents you. And as a country, we need a Garda leadership which we know adheres to the highest standards. So as I said, I look forward to the resolution of the issues at hand."

Responding to concerns raised by the allegations, Mr Moylan said that, on learning of the allegations, the association followed the lead of the minister, that the complaint make a protected disclosure.

He said "everyone is innocent until proven guilty" and that due process should be allowed to take place.

He said he was "not sure if it had been clearly articulated by those who were absent from the conference if it was related to the allegations: 'The delegates that have spoken to me are not concerned about those allegations and they want to get on with the agenda.'"

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

He said due process should be allowed to take its course.

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

He said due process should be allowed to take its course.

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

He said due process should be allowed to take its course.

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

He said due process should be allowed to take its course.

He said he doesn't agree with the allegations and suggested that the person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to any body else facing other allegations.

## Call for legislation after mother and three children evicted from home

Eoin English

A young mother and her three children are homeless after being evicted from the home she rented for nine years.

It will now cost the State an estimated €3,500 to house them in emergency B&B accommodation in South

Cork for the next two to three weeks alone. Where they will stay beyond that is uncertain.

The family's plight led to renewed calls last night for legislation to prevent evictions into homelessness.

Thomas Gould, a Sinn Féin councillor in Cork City who has been working on the

woman's case, also called for housing body Threshold to be given increased powers, amid fears this family is not an isolated case.

He said this family's plight proves that the Government's focus on protecting the rights of landlords is exposing some families to homelessness.

"This woman was renting this house for the last nine years and there was never a problem. It's where her children were raised, but she had to tell her children last Thursday that they now have nowhere to live," said Mr Gould.

He said the landlord served the woman with a

notice to quit last August, giving her the required notice. He said the landlord followed procedure and did everything by the book.

The woman linked up with Threshold, who liaised with the landlord, resulting in an offer to increase her monthly rental payment to just over €1,100.

However, the landlord rejected the offer and advised the woman to leave the property, on the south side of Cork City, by last Thursday or face possible legal action, which could result in her facing legal costs.

The woman and her family had no option but to spend

the weekend in the city's Family Hub on the Western Rd.

However, their space in the hub was pledged to someone else from yesterday and the family has now had to relocate to a B&B nearly 20km away.

Mr Gould said the woman, who works in the city, is now

at risk of not being able to continue working.

"All this is happening at a time when we have over 100 derelict properties in the city and when the former St Mary's Hospital site is still lying idle," he said.

Mr Gould is working with the family in a bid to resolve their situation.



Graham Clifford, chairman of the event; Dermot Kavanagh, director of Cork Simon; Hilary Melton, executive director of US group Pathways Vermont; and Prof Nicholas Pleace, University of York, at the Imperial Hotel for the Simon Communities conference. Picture: Clare Keogh

## Simon study urges more investment in social and affordable housing

Joe Leogue

A report launched in Cork has found that integrated services such as the rapid rehousing Housing First model and physical and mental health supports are needed to prevent the homelessness crisis from getting worse.

Released by the Simon Communities, the report says there is a need for greater investment in social and affordable housing, and that lessons can be learned from other countries in developing effective homelessness prevention.

**Preventing Homelessness: A Review Of The International Evidence** by Professor Nicholas Pleace of the University of York's Centre for Housing Policy was launched at a conference in

the Imperial Hotel in Cork City.

Speakers included Hilary Melton, executive director of US group Pathways Vermont; Joe Finnelly, lecturer in applied social studies at UCC, and members of Cork Simon.

The review finds three "essentials" for effective homelessness prevention. It must be part of an integrated homelessness strategy; it should be both flexible and connected, adapting to people's needs by working effectively with other services; and it requires a sufficient housing supply in order to work well.

An example of the services required to prevent homelessness is the Housing First model, aimed at providing both housing and treatment

services for participants.

The report counters arguments against homelessness prevention measures, such as the claim that these can be a "sticking plaster" that lead to policymakers ignoring bigger problems causing homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing or cuts to health services.

The international evidence strongly suggests that even where there is sufficient housing supply, people will still need assistance to avoid homelessness and to manage the risks and support needs that can trigger homelessness," states the report.

It finds that "prevention is essential as part of an integrated homelessness strategy by countries that have achieved or are working towards a

'functional zero' in homelessness."

Paul Sheehan, national spokesperson for the Simon Communities, said the report shows "there are clear and evidence-based solutions to prevent more homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing and adding to the current crisis."

He said homelessness has been shown to work in other countries, and that are within our grasp. Most still need assistance to avoid homelessness and to manage the risks and support needs that can trigger homelessness," states the report.

It finds that "prevention is essential as part of an integrated homelessness strategy by countries that have achieved or are working towards a

functional zero' in homelessness."

Paul Sheehan, national spokesperson for the Simon Communities, said the report shows "there are clear and evidence-based solutions to prevent more homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing and adding to the current crisis."

He said homelessness has been shown to work in other countries, and that are within our grasp. Most still need assistance to avoid homelessness and to manage the risks and support needs that can trigger homelessness," states the report.







# Disturbing questions arise in case against civilian member of gardaí over sick certs

**L**YNN Margiotta answered the door to her home in Navan, Co Meath, early on the morning of August 11, 2014, to be met by familiar faces.

The three gardaí were from Store St station in Dublin, where she worked as a civilian member of the force. She thought something was up, perhaps bad news related to her elderly father.

Instead, they told her she was under arrest for suspected fraud. The fraud was in connection with how she had obtained medical certificates to cover for days she was absent from work.

She was perplexed. If there was any issue over "sick notes" she would have thought it was a matter for her direct line manager and then human resources. She had had no communication on the matter from the human resources department in An Garda Síochána.

She addressed the arresting gardai by their first names, and they all called her Lynn. She asked could she have a shower and they consented. Then they brought her to Navan Garda Station, where she was interviewed.

So began a four-and-a-half-year journey that ended on March 26 last in Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. The trial had opened the previous week but had been largely confined to a trial within a trial in the absence of the jury, known as *voir dire*.

This is conducted to determine whether particular evidence is to be admissible.

Following that, Judge Patricia Ryan ruled that Ms Margiotta had been denied access to a solicitor while in custody and her privacy had been breached by accessing medical records without consent. The case against her, and her brother Tony, who is a doctor, was dropped.

Ms Margiotta was relieved that the case had ended but utterly dismayed that it had occurred at all.

"It had a huge impact on me, my family and particularly my elderly father. In the Autumn of his life he had to see his two adult children under criminal investigation."

"I would like somebody to be held accountable," she said.

"There should be some inquiry as to why this went on for four-and-a-half years out of our lives."

Disturbing questions do arise from the case. The investigation had many curious features. There is an issue over whether Ms Margiotta's employment at Store St had any bearing on how the matter was investigated.

She has not been contacted by her employer since her arrest in August 2014. The role of the DPP is also curious. As of now, the Garda commissioner has not ordered any investigation into the case.

## The first arrest

Lynn Margiotta grew up, one of two children, in Finglas on the northside of Dublin.

She joined the civil service in 1994. Five years later she transferred from the Department of Justice to the district office in the Store St station in the city centre.

Over the following 14 years she worked there without incident. She never complained about a colleague or gardai, she was never the subject of any disciplinary issue.

In 2013, Lynn's mother became ill, but her death in January 2014 was sudden. Lynn had lived at home and was very close to her mother. A garda escort was provided at the funeral.

Afterwards, Lynn suffered a form of depression. She was absent from work on over a dozen occasions between January and July 2014.

Later, in a cautioned interview, she explained how she had been affected.

"Nothing in life prepares you for the death of a parent. My mom died very suddenly in hospital and I was there. I witnessed it and had a serious affect on me and as a result I took a bit of time off work."

"I went back for maybe a day or two but just didn't feel I was giving my full potential to the job. I didn't feel I was at it."

The doctors' certs to cover her sick leave were signed by her brother Tony, a general practitioner, who worked in the Borinme medical centre in Swords, where Lynn was a patient. He also worked as a locum in a practice in Rathfriland, Co Meath, from where he also signed certs.

These certs had the stamp of other doctors who worked, or had worked, full time in the two practices. Colin Bradley, a professor of general practice at UCC, stated to gardai that it was not unusual for locums to use another doctor's stamp while filling out sick certs. The practice, he said, was unregulated.

At the trial last month, Supt Des McTernan told the court that he believed Ms Margiotta when she said she was sick. He said he was investigating whether the certs were used to obtain sick leave by deception or whether she was sick or not was irrelevant, he said.

In July 2014, six months after her mother's death, issues arose between Lynn Margiotta and a gardai member in the station.

On July 24, Ms Margiotta lodged a complaint of bullying against this gardai member. A few weeks later, on August 11, the three gardai showed up at her Navan home to arrest her.

There were curious features to the arrest. In the McTernan instance, the arresting gardai had worked with Lynn Margiotta, some of them for a number of years. One of them had shared a house with another member with whom Lynn had had a relationship.



Many curious features exist in the investigation of Lynn Margiotta for suspected fraud in connection with how she obtained medical certs for days she was absent from work, writes Special Correspondent **Michael Clifford**



Lynn Margiotta, from Finglas, Dublin, leaving court on March 26 after the case against her and her brother was dropped.

Picture: Collins Courts

Ordinarily, if a gardai had been arrested by the investigation to be conducted with colleagues from the same station. Yet, for some reason, this did not apply in the case of Lynn Margiotta, a civilian employee of the force.

The timing of the arrest was also curious. Supt McTernan (he was an inspector in 2014) stated that he became aware of the issue sometime before August 11. He didn't state how long before he had become aware.

"Prior to August 11, 2014, I was in receipt of information to the effect that one Lynn Margiotta was submitting medical certificates that may have been falsified," he said in a statement.

In any event, the arrest must have occurred early in the investigation. Typically, a police investigation gathers all the evidence before an arrest. The evidence is then put to the suspect in an interview.

Ms Margiotta received no advance notice of it. In con-

sidering whether to arrest a suspect, the police must take into account issues like legality, proportionality and necessity. The arrest appears to have been legal. Whether it was proportionate or necessary is another matter.

Lynn Margiotta was held for nearly 12 hours, including a six-hour extension on her original detention. The reason given in applying for the extension was to establish a "motive" for the alleged crime.

Ms Margiotta didn't return to work. She felt she couldn't under the circumstances, even though she was not suspended. Her bullying allegation was not dealt with. For most of the last four-and-a-half years Ms Margiotta has been without an income.

## The second arrest

Following her arrest on August 11, 2014, Lynn Margiotta was left in a form of limbo.

Her solicitor, Yvonne Bambray, made repeated attempts to find out what was going on. Then, over a year later, on September 18, 2015 she was arrested for a second time. On this occasion, she did receive advance notice as, under the circumstances, she would be entitled to expect.

During this interview she was shown a number of the doctors' certificates. She refused to say anything under legal advice. This arrest was also curious.

Ordinarily, a suspect is only arrested on a second occasion if fresh evidence comes to light.

The doctor's certs placed before her were all available to the gardai at the time of the first arrest. Why they had not been produced then and why it took a further year to actually assemble them, is curious.

The evening of her second arrest a front page story was splashed across

*The Herald* newspaper. The headline on the piece stated: "Dublin based gardai employee arrested for using 'fake sick certs'."

A "source" was quoted in the story. "She was putting in sick certs for days that it is suspected she was not sick at all."

The "source" obviously provided inaccurate information as Supt McTernan told Dublin Circuit criminal court last month that he believed she was sick.

The piece also noted that a "lengthy investigation" into the matter had been conducted. Lengthy investigations tend usually to involve suspected crimes like intricate financial dealings in banking, organised gang crime, or murder.

This "lengthy investigation" was concerned with the means by which a sick Garda employee had acquired a sick note.

The front page article went on: "If a prosecution does happen, it is understood that it will be the first time in the history of the State that an employee will be hauled before the courts for allegedly providing fake sick notes to their employer."

Lynn Margiotta was released from custody later that day. Her brother Tony Margiotta was also interviewed by gardai on number of occasions between June and August 2015. He attended in a voluntary capacity in the company of a solicitor and he was not arrested.

## The charge

Around 8am on the morning of June 10, 2017, Lynn Margiotta answered the door of her father's home in Finglas. Another visit from the gardai. She was told she was to be taken to court to be charged. The date was a Saturday.

This is highly curious. Lynn Margiotta was not the subject of a warrant. She was not considered a flight risk nor had she been recently extradited to this country. She presented no danger to anybody.

The investigation against her had gone on for nearly three years. Her solicitor had requested that she receive advance warning of any charge. Yet Ms Margiotta was being taken from her

home to be charged on a Saturday morning without any notice.

The only court sittings on a Saturday are for emergency cases and most solicitors who would normally frequent the courts are not present. In such a milieu, Lynn and Tony Margiotta were brought to the Criminal Courts of Justice building and charged with seven offences of using a medical certificate as a "false instrument".

The *Irish Examiner* understands that the DPP's direction was that the matter could be dealt with summarily in the district court if guilty pleas were agreed. This is curious.

A guilty plea ensures a conviction, and also a lighter sentence than might be the case before a jury in the circuit court. It would be entirely possible, if not probable, that the defendants could

## Margiotta faces charges

Dr Tony Margiotta's son answered the door of the family home in Hollystown west Dublin on the morning that his father was arrested.

It was Saturday. He was told he was to be charged in relation to the so-called "bogus" medical certs. He asked could he have a shower before leaving, but was told no, we need to get moving, the court will be sitting at 10am.

Dr Margiotta was brought to the Bridewell Station and from there transferred, with his sister Lynn, to the Criminal Courts of Justice building to be charged.

Prior to that, he had been interviewed on four occasions by the gardai between June and August 2015. Some of the material canvassed in the interview is curious.

He was asked a number of times about ethics in relation to signing medical certs. It is unclear whether, by then, the gardai had possession of the opinion of UCC academic Colin Bradley, who said that it was not unusual for locums to use another doctor's stamp while filling out sick certs. Dr Margiotta only became aware that this opinion had been secured in the days before the trial last month.

During the 2015 interviews he was presented with a number of the certs which he had freely admitted that he signed.

"Do you accept that this medical certificate gave the impression that Lynn Margiotta was unfit for work from the period 24/7/14 to 30/7/14," he was asked about one cert.

"It's not a question of giving the impression," he replied. "It's a statement of fact."

Dr Margiotta qualified as doctor from UCD in 1986. He worked in general practice for a number of years and in a similar role in the army between 1992 and 2001.

In 2014, he was working in Borinme Medical centre in Swords and as a locum in the Ráthfriland practice from where he signed the medical certs. He is currently employed in a public health role in the HSE.

"I never denied that I signed those certs," he says.

"There was no ethical issue. They went to great lengths in the interviews to question me about ethics. What's that get to do with the law? I would also like to know when they received that expert opinion from Colin Bradley. If it was prior to the interviews with me then why were they asking about medical ethics."

He believes that the gardai were initially operating on the basis that somebody thought Lynn had actually written the certs herself, but it should quickly have become obvious that this was not the case.

"At no stage did anybody shout stop. How did the DPP let this get to court? He has an issue over how the case was portrayed."

Those certs were referred to at every step as bogus. They were not bogus. They were signed by a doctor."

Dr Margiotta has his own opinions as to why the case progressed as it did, in a protracted manner, all the way to a criminal trial before a jury. He does not accept that it was a normal Garda investigation into a suspected crime.

avoid any prison sentence.

"This was a case where the offences were admitted. One outcome would be to justify the pursuit of the case by the gardai. Another would be that the evidence was not strong enough to go into any detail as a trial would be avoided."

"That a case involving a 'lengthy investigation', running into years, could be disposed in the district court is highly unusual."

The Margiottas chose to take their chances with a judge and jury of the circuit court. Another 21 months elapsed before the case was brought to trial.

The trial before the jury never advanced beyond the opening day before moving into the *voir dire*. Following that, the case collapsed and the Margiottas walked free.

The judge's ruling that Lynn Margiotta's privacy was violated in particular by An Garda Síochána.

She had a medical condition which she was entitled to keep private. If she had worked anywhere else the gardai would not have requested either her consent or a warrant to access the records. But for some reason such avenues were bypassed because she was an employee of An Garda Síochána.

Whether her employment status had anything to do with the many curious features of the case remains a matter for the commissioner to explore.

If there had been a trial, much of this would have emerged in open court. Simply because a trial was avoided is no reason to ignore the curious features of the investigation and prosecution.

"I am flummoxed that it actually arrived in court," Lynn Margiotta says. "That should be part of any inquiry. While it was all going on I was left confused. The day out in the cold. For nearly 14 years I worked there and there wasn't a cross word with anybody, including any line manager. And then this. I have not been contacted since it began. Somebody should be held accountable."

Lynn Margiotta has never been informed about any investigation or outcome to her complaint of bullying against the garda member, lodged less than three weeks before she was first arrested.

**“That a case involving a ‘lengthy investigation’, running into years, could be disposed in the district court is highly unusual**

Tony Margiotta, from Hollystown, Dublin 15, leaving court after the case.

Picture: Collins Courts



# 'Danger' to Muslim politician after tweet

■ Trump posted video purporting to show Ilhan Omar dismiss 9/11

Darlene Superville

American politician Ilhan Omar has said she has faced increased death threats since president Donald Trump retweeted a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Mr Trump of fomenting right-wing extremism.

Ms Omar said she had experienced "an increase in direct threats on my life", adding: "It has to stop."

Her statement followed an announcement by House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota congresswoman and calling for Mr Trump to take down the video.

Soon after Ms Pelosi's statement, the video disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of his Twitter feed, although it was not deleted.

Ms Pelosi was among Democrats who had criticised Mr Trump over the tweet, with some accusing him of trying to incite violence against the Muslim politician.

A New York man was recently charged with making death threats against her.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders defended Mr Trump, saying the president has a duty to highlight Ms Omar's history of making comments that others deem anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive and that he wished no "ill will" upon the first-term politician.

But Ms Omar said that since Mr Trump retweeted the video on Friday night, she has received many threats on her life that referred or replied to the posted video.

"Violent crimes and other acts of hate by right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world," she said.

"We can no longer ignore that they are the highest office in the land."

She said: "We are all Americans." Earlier, Ms Pelosi issued a statement while travelling in London saying she had been with the "highest office in the land."

Ms Pelosi said officials will continue to monitor and assess threats against Ms Omar, and called on Mr Trump to discourage such behaviour.



Ilhan Omar.

"The president's words weigh a ton, and his hateful and inflammatory rhetoric creates real danger," Ms Pelosi said.

"President Trump must take down his disrespectful and dangerous video."

The video in Mr Trump's tweet included a snippet from a recent speech Ms Omar gave to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, in which she described the September 11 terrorist attack as "some people did something", along with news footage of the planes hitting the Twin Towers.

Mr Trump captioned his tweet in a typically all-caps style: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

Critics accuse Ms Omar of being flippant in describing the perpetrators of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

She later sought to defend herself by tweeting a quote from George W. Bush, in which the Republican president referred to the attack as "people" just days after 9/11.

Neither Mr Trump's tweet nor the video included Ms Omar's full quote or the context of her comments, which were about Muslims feeling that their civil liberties had eroded after the attacks.

Ms Sanders questioned why Democrats were not following Mr Trump's example and calling out Ms Omar.

Democrats who criticised the president over the tweet defended Ms Omar.

Representative Jerry Nadler, a New York Democrat who represents Manhattan's financial district, which was targeted on 9/11, said he had no issues with Ms Omar's characterisation of the attacks.

"I have had some problems with some of her other remarks, but with that one," he said.



A man watches the landmark Notre Dame Cathedral burn, engulfed in flames, in central Paris yesterday. A fire swept through the roof of the famed French cathedral, below, causing the spire to collapse, right.

Pictures: Geoffroy Van Der Hasselt/Patrick Anjard/AFP/Getty

## Spire of Notre Dame collapses as famous cathedral engulfed in fire

Sybille de La Hamaide and Julie Carriat

Paris

Notre Dame Cathedral went up in flames yesterday in a roaring blaze that devastated the Parisian landmark, a searing loss for the city and for France.

The video in Mr Trump's tweet included a snippet from a recent speech Ms Omar gave to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, in which she described the September 11 terrorist attack as "some people did something", along with news footage of the planes hitting the Twin Towers.

Mr Trump captioned his tweet in a typically all-caps style: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET."

Critics accuse Ms Omar of being flippant in describing the perpetrators of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

She later sought to defend herself by tweeting a quote from George W. Bush, in which the Republican president referred to the attack as "people" just days after 9/11.

Neither Mr Trump's tweet nor the video included Ms Omar's full quote or the context of her comments, which were about Muslims feeling that their civil liberties had eroded after the attacks.

Ms Sanders questioned why Democrats were not following Mr Trump's example and calling out Ms Omar.

Democrats who criticised the president over the tweet defended Ms Omar.

Representative Jerry Nadler, a New York Democrat who represents Manhattan's financial district, which was targeted on 9/11, said he had no issues with Ms Omar's characterisation of the attacks.

"I have had some problems with some of her other remarks, but with that one," he said.

folding, and bronze statues were removed last week for works.

Officials said the fire may be linked to these restorative efforts.

The "catastrophic" damage was lamented by President Michael D Higgins.

"As President of Ireland I would like to express the feelings of solidarity of the Irish people with the people of France at the catastrophic damage to one of the most iconic buildings in Europe," he said in a statement.

"It is my hope that it will survive this latest terrible catastrophe."

The cathedral, which dates back to the 12th century, features in Victor Hugo's classic novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

It is a Unesco World Heritage site that attracts millions of tourists every year.

The Gothic cathedral is also famed for its many carved stone gargoyles, stunning stained glass windows and the flying buttresses that hold up its walls.

The French Civil Security service, possibly responding to US president Donald Trump's suggestion that firefighters "act quickly" and employ flying water tankers, said that was not an option as it might destroy the entire building.

"Helicopter or plane, the weight of the water and the intensity of dropping it at low altitude could weaken the structure of Notre Dame and cause collateral damage to surrounding buildings," it tweeted.

German chancellor Angela Merkel and British prime minister Theresa May said their thoughts were with the



French people. Ms Merkel called the cathedral a "symbol of France and our European culture". The Vatican said the blaze had caused "shock and sadness" and said it was praying for the firefighters.

It is a focal point for French Roman Catholics who like Christians around the world are celebrating Holy Week, marking the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The archbishop of Paris called on all priests in Paris to ring church bells as a gesture of solidarity for Notre Dame.

"I have a lot of friends who live abroad and every time they come I tell them to go to Notre Dame," said witness Samantha Silva, with tears in her eyes.

"I've visited it so many times, but it will never be the same. It's a real symbol of Paris."

Built over a century starting in 1163, Notre-Dame is considered to be among the finest examples of French Gothic cathedral architecture.

It is renowned for its rib vaulting, flying buttresses and stunning stained glass windows, as well as its many carved stone gargoyles.

Its 100m-long roof, of which a large section was consumed in the first hour of the blaze, was one of the oldest such structures in Paris, according to the cathedral's website.

"There are a lot of art works inside... It's a real tragedy," Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo told reporters at the scene.

A centre of Roman Catholic faith, over the centuries Notre-Dame has also been a target of political upheaval. It was ransacked by rioting Protestant Huguenots in the 16th century, pillaged again during the French Revolution of the 1790s and left in a state of semi-neglect.

The wood-and-lead spire was built during that restoration, according to the cathedral's website.

Unesco said in a tweet it was "closely monitoring the situation and is standing by France's side to safeguard and restore this invaluable heritage."

physical, flying buttresses and stunning stained glass windows, as well as its many carved stone gargoyles.

Its 100m-long roof, of which a large section was consumed in the first hour of the blaze, was one of the oldest such structures in Paris, according to the cathedral's website.

"There are a lot of art works inside... It's a real tragedy," Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo told reporters at the scene.

A centre of Roman Catholic faith, over the centuries Notre-Dame has also been a target of political upheaval. It was ransacked by rioting Protestant Huguenots in the 16th century, pillaged again during the French Revolution of the 1790s and left in a state of semi-neglect.

The wood-and-lead spire was built during that restoration, according to the cathedral's website.

Unesco said in a tweet it was "closely monitoring the situation and is standing by France's side to safeguard and restore this invaluable heritage."

"The whole time that people are waiting they are suffering every single day as they cannot be themselves and get on with their lives," she said.

"They are also living with the fear they are not ever going to be safe and not knowing if they are going to be forced back to the country they escaped at some point."

"All I know is that I'm doing my job to the best of my ability," Ms Ardern told iNews when asked about the poll result.

Since coming to power in 2017, Ardern's coalition government has faced several challenges, including weak business confidence, emboldened unions and a slowing economy. Her youth

physical and verbal abuse from the general public but also from authorities."

A spokesman for the UK government said: "We do not routinely comment on individual cases."

Although homosexuality is legal in Turkey, LGBT people face widespread discrimination and lack legal protections.

At least 41 LGBT people were murdered in hate crimes between 2010 and 2014 in Turkey, rights groups reported to the UN in 2015.

All of those bringing the legal challenge were offered a safe haven in Britain under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme, according to the law firm.

But they have been left waiting for up to two years in Istanbul, where they face double discrimination from both fellow refugees and

Turkish people, said Mr Zaq. Solicitors for the group of refugees have written to the Home Office raising concerns and warning they are preparing to launch court action if the issues are not quickly resolved.

Long delays for those seeking asylum or waiting for resettlement in Britain must be addressed to avoid adding to stress and trauma for refugees, said Leila Zadeh, the executive director of the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

"The whole time that people are waiting they are suffering every single day as they cannot be themselves and get on with their lives," she said.

"They are also living with the fear they are not ever going to be safe and not knowing if they are going to be forced back to the country they escaped at some point."

"All I know is that I'm doing my job to the best of my ability," Ms Ardern told iNews when asked about the poll result.

Since coming to power in 2017, Ardern's coalition government has faced several challenges, including weak business confidence, emboldened unions and a slowing economy. Her youth

## Environmental protesters bring London to standstill

Press Association

Environmental protesters blocked some of London's busiest roads yesterday in a bid to bring the capital to a standstill as they demanded UK government action on climate change.

Some activists glued themselves to the windows and smashed glass revolving doors at Shell's headquarters near Waterloo, while others spray-painted graffiti and hung banners on the building.

Police said three males have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage over the incident.

Campaign group Extinction Rebellion said they aimed to cause more than £5,000 (£6,950) in damage so they can be tried by a jury in the Crown Court.

Organisers expected thousands of people to join protests at five locations in central London as they demanded the British government declare a climate emergency.

Skateboarders replaced cars and lorries on Waterloo Bridge as the Thames crossing was closed to traffic and decorated with pot plants and trees.

One police officer said: "It's been very peaceful so far. Everyone has been really pleasant."

"The only grief we've had is from passing motorists shouting at them to 'Get a job' - that's about as exciting as it's got."

A bright pink boat became the focus for hundreds of activists stopping traffic at Oxford Circus.

Marble Arch was also

blocked, while demonstrators caused further disruption as they made their way from Hyde Park Corner to Piccadilly Circus.

At Parliament Square, people unfurled banners, held up placards and waved flags as speakers took to the stage.

London's protests are part of a wider campaign which will see people in at least 80 cities in more than 33 countries hold similar demonstrations on the same environmental issues, campaigners said.

Organisers said: "The International Rebellion begins and Extinction Rebellion will be bringing London to a standstill for up to two weeks."

"They will be blocking five of the city's busiest and most iconic locations in a non-violent, peaceful act of rebellion where they invite people to join them for several days of creative, artist-led resistance."

Protester Olivia Evershed, 23, said: "I hope that it's really going to bring awareness about the emergency crisis that we are in, and encourage the government to act."

"They can change a few of the laws along with the Paris agreement so that we can re-



Demonstrators at the Extinction Rebellion protest in London.

ally work towards achieving a practical target.

"We've got 12 years to act before there is irreversible damage to the environment and we start to see catastrophic changes. If we don't do anything to change this, our children will die."

The movement has received support from actress Emma Thompson and former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams.

chances in the March 15 attacks. Meanwhile, the country's prime minister Jacinda Ardern has received her highest approval rating since taking office.

The leader has been praised at home and abroad for her handling of the shooting last month.

The iNews Colmar Brun-

## Gay refugees taking legal action after 'having to hide' while left in Turkey

Sonia Elks

A group of LGBT Syrian refugees launched a legal challenge against Britain yesterday, saying it offered them asylum but left them in Turkey, where their sexuality puts them in danger.

The 15 refugees have been forced to conceal their sexuality in Istanbul and are constantly at risk of attacks while they wait to be taken to Britain, lawyers representing them said.

"Pretty much every client that we spoke to mentioned that they had to essentially hide," Sheroz Zaq, a solicitor at the law firm representing the group, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"For some of them, the minute they leave their home, they have to wear a mask when they are walking down the street in Turkey, not only in terms of fear of

physical and verbal abuse from the general public but also from authorities."

A spokesman for the UK government said: "We do not routinely comment on individual cases."

Although homosexuality is legal in Turkey, LGBT people face widespread discrimination and lack legal protections.

At least 41 LGBT people were murdered in hate crimes between 2010 and 2014 in Turkey, rights groups reported to the UN in 2015.

All of those bringing the legal challenge were offered a safe haven in Britain under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme, according to the law firm.

But they have been left waiting for up to two years in Istanbul, where they face double discrimination from both fellow refugees and

Turkish people, said Mr Zaq. Solicitors for the group of refugees have written to the Home Office raising concerns and warning they are preparing to launch court action if the issues are not quickly resolved.

Long delays for those seeking asylum or waiting for resettlement in Britain must be addressed to avoid adding to stress and trauma for refugees, said Leila Zadeh, the executive director of the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

"The whole time that people are waiting they are suffering every single day as they cannot be themselves and get on with their lives," she said.

"They are also living with the fear they are not ever going to be safe and not knowing if they are going to be forced back to the country they escaped at some point."

## Six in court charged with sharing Christchurch mosque killer's video

Praveen Menon

Six people have appeared in a New Zealand court on charges that they illegally distributed the video a gunman livestreamed as he shot worshippers at two mosques last month.

Christchurch District Court judge Stephen O'Driscoll denied bail to bus-

nessman Philip Arps and an 18-year-old suspect who both were taken into custody in March. The four others are not charged.

The charge of supplying or distributing objectionable material carries a penalty of up to 14 years in prison.

Mr Arps, 44, is scheduled to next appear in court via video link on April 26.

The 18-year-old suspect is charged with sharing the livestream video and a still image of the Al Noor mosque with the words "target acquired". He will reappear in court on July 31 when electronic monitored bail is considered.

Police prosecutor Pip Currie opposed bail for the 18-year-old suspect and said

the second charge, involving the words added to the still image, was of significant concern.

New Zealand's chief censor has banned both the livestreamed footage of the attack and several days of written and released by Brenton Harrison Tarrant, who faces 50 murder charges and 39 attempted murder

charges in the March 15 attacks. Meanwhile, the country's prime minister Jacinda Ardern has received her highest approval rating since taking office.

The leader has been praised at home and abroad for her handling of the shooting last month.

The iNews Colmar Brun-

ton political survey released yesterday showed 51% of respondents said Ms Ardern was their preferred prime minister.

Rating for Ms Ardern's rival, opposition National Party leader Simon Bridges, dropped one percentage point to 5%.

"All I know is that I'm doing my job to the best of my ability," Ms Ardern told iNews when asked about the poll result.

Since coming to power in 2017, Ardern's coalition government has faced several challenges, including weak business confidence, emboldened unions and a slowing economy. Her youth

physical and verbal abuse from the general public but also from authorities."

A spokesman for the UK government said: "We do not routinely comment on individual cases."

Although homosexuality is legal in Turkey, LGBT people face widespread discrimination and lack legal protections.



# New Zealand nurse held by IS for nearly six years

Associated Press

A New Zealand nurse has been held captive by the Islamic State group in Syria for almost six years – information long kept secret for fear her life might be at risk.

The status of nurse and midwife Louisa Akavi, now 62, is unknown, but her employer, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), says it has received recent eyewitness reports suggesting she might still be

alive. On Sunday, *The New York Times* became the first media organisation to name Ms Akavi, ending a five-year blackout imposed by the New Zealand government and Red Cross, with the cooperation of international media.

The collapse of IS has raised hopes Ms Akavi and two Syrian drivers kidnapped with her might now be discovered.

*The New York Times* reported that as recently as De-

cember, Ms Akavi may have been seen by at least two people at a clinic in Soussa, one of IS's last outposts.

"We were able to work together [with the Red Cross] to locate and recover her," New Zealand foreign minister Winston Peters said.

"This has been a uniquely complex and difficult case. Louisa went to Syria with the ICRC to deliver human-

itarian relief to people suffering as a result of a brutal civil war and Isis occupation.

"Where a New Zealander is held by a terrorist organisation the government takes all appropriate action to recover them. That is exactly what we have done here."

Ms Akavi was taken captive in 2013 in the city of Idlib in north-west Syria.

It is believed she was offered for ransom and may have been used as a human shield.

The New Zealand government believed at one point she may have died, but there are hopes her medical skills might have caused her captors to spare her.

The New Zealand government is reported to have opposed the ICRC's decision to allow *The New York Times* to report Ms Akavi's name and nationality.

Dominik Stillhart, director of operations for the ICRC, said the organisation had decided to permit pub-

lication in the hope it would elicit new information on her whereabouts.

"We have not spoken publicly before today because from the moment Louisa and the others were kidnapped, every decision we made was to maximise the chances of winning their freedom," Mr Stillhart said in a statement.

"With IS having lost the last of its territory, we felt it was now time to speak out," he added.

He said the collapse of

IS in Syria could bring new opportunities to learn more about Ms Akavi's situation and that the ICRC also feared it risked losing track of her in the aftermath of the collapse.

Ms Akavi is of Cook Islands descent and lived in Otaki, a small town north of Wellington.

She is the longest-held captive in the history of the ICRC, and Mr Stillhart called her "a true and compassionate humanitarian".



Bibi Andersson in 1978.

## Swedish movie star Bibi Andersson dies

Bibi Andersson, the Swedish actress who starred in classic films of the 1960s and 1970s, including *The Seventh Seal* and *Persona*, has died aged 83.

Andersson died on Sunday, said a spokesman for the Swedish Film Institute.

The institute said Andersson was the only person to have been named best actress four times in its annual awards.

"Her achievements in Swedish cinema cannot be overrated," the Swedish Film Institute's CEO, Anna Serner, said.

Andersson also appeared in overseas movies by directors such as John Huston and Robert Altman and starred alongside actors including Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier and Steve McQueen.

## Top Japanese court rejects Ghosn appeal

Japan's Supreme Court has turned down an appeal by lawyers for Nissan's former chairman Carlos Ghosn to end his detention following his arrest for the fourth time.

Mr Ghosn was arrested in November and released on bail last month, but was re-arrested on April 4.

He has been charged with falsifying financial documents in under-reporting his retirement compensation and with breach of trust in allegedly dubious payments.

Mr Ghosn has said he is innocent, noting that the compensation was never discussed and that the payments were legitimate.

His detention has been approved through until April 22.

## No Huawei spying threat, says Belgium

Belgium's centre for cybersecurity has found no evidence that telecoms equipment supplied by Huawei Technology could be used for spying.

The agency, which reports to the Belgian prime minister, had been tasked with analysing the possible threat posed by Huawei, which supplies equipment for Belgian mobile operators Proximus, Orange Belgium and Telenet.

"Until now we have not found technical indications that point in the direction of a spying threat," a spokesman for the agency said yesterday.

The US has barred Huawei from 5G networks due to concerns over its ties to the Chinese government.

## 'No need to sanction Turkey' for missiles

Turkey's purchase of Russian air defence missile systems should not trigger US sanctions because Ankara is not an adversary of Washington and remains committed to the Nato alliance, defence minister Hulusi Akar said yesterday.

Akar also said that the US would expect to remain a buyer of F-35 fighter jets and also a partner in production, despite the US decision to shut out if it buys the Russian S-400 defence system.

"We firmly believe that linking the purchase of the S-400 to the US is unfortunate," he told a conference in Washington.

Akar said the US, Japan and other project partners to honour their commitments.

## Man charged over Grenfell effigy video

A 46-year-old man has been charged after a video showing an effigy of the Grenfell Tower fire victim was posted online.

Paul Bussetti, from South Norwood, south-east London, is accused of two counts of sending or causing to be sent grossly offensive material via a public communications network.

Scotland Yard said he will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, April 30.

Six men were arrested and a seventh interviewed under caution over the video, which sparked outrage when it was posted online in November.

A total of 72 people are charged as a result of the London tower block blaze in 2017.

## Duterte sets largest Filipino budget ever

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday signed a 7.7 trillion peso (€63.4bn) budget for this year, its largest ever.

He also signed a law that forced the Southeast Asian country to cut its growth target.

The Philippines last month cut its 2019 growth target to 6.7% from 7.8%, reflecting the absence of a new budget and the impact of the US-China trade dispute.

In signing the budget, the president said the most endangered turtle in the world, the Yangtze River and Taihu Lake.

The species is often reared to be eaten as a delicacy.

Suzhou authorities said Chinese and foreign experts are investigating the cause of the turtle's death.

# Shamina 'entitled' to seek legal aid

■ Jeremy Hunt 'uncomfortable' at idea – but Corbyn calls it her right

Dave Higgins, Josh Thomas and Gavin Cordon

British foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt has said the idea of Islamic State bride Shamina Begum benefiting from government-funded legal assistance makes him "very uncomfortable".

But opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn has defended her right to legal aid after being stripped of her British citizenship.

The Labour leader said that, whatever crimes Ms Begum was accused of, she was entitled to proper legal representation.

The Legal Aid Agency has refused to comment on a report by the *Daily Mail* that Ms Begum, who left the UK at the age of 19 to marry an IS fighter, has now been granted legal aid to challenge the revocation of her citizenship.

Home secretary Sajid Javid took the decision to strip her of her rights after her teenage son, now aged 19, turned up at the refugee camp in Syria.

However, Mr Corbyn said the decision by Mr Javid was "very questionable" and that it was up to the Legal Aid Agency to decide whether she should receive assistance.

"She is a British national and, therefore, she has that right, like any of us do, to apply for legal aid if she has a problem. She has legal rights, just like anybody else does," he said during a visit to an activity centre near Halifax.

The whole point of legal aid is that if you're facing a prosecution then you're entitled to be represented and that's a fundamental point of law, a fundamental point in any democratic society.

"We cannot and should not judge outside of a court."

"A court must make that decision and every person in front of a court – whatever they're accused of doing, how heinous or bad the crime is – is entitled to that representation."

However Mr Hunt said Ms Begum "knew the choices she was making" when she left for Syria, although he accepted that people were entitled to challenge decisions which the state had made about them.

"On a personal level, it makes me very uncomfortable because she made a series of choices and she knew the choices she was making, so I think we made decisions about her future based on those choices," he told BBC Radio 4's *Tiny Tim* programme.

"However, we are a country that believes that people with limited means should have access to the resources of the state if they want to challenge the decisions the state has made about them and, for obvious reasons, those decisions are made independent from politicians."

Mr Javid said the answer to legal aid was not a matter for ministers.

"In my understanding, it's not the first time that someone who for national security reasons has had their citizenship deprived... has received legal aid," he said.

Mr Tipper, whose brother Trooper Simon Tipper was killed in the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, was among critics who condemned the reported award, telling the *Mail* it was "absolutely disgusting".

Mr Tipper was previously refused funding to pursue a case in the civil courts. The decision was later reversed following public outrage.

However Dale Bobu, a former chief superintendent in the Metropolitan Police and a friend of the Begum family, said legal aid was necessary to ensure the correct process was followed.

decision and every person in front of a court – whatever they're accused of doing, how heinous or bad the crime is – is entitled to that representation."

However Mr Hunt said Ms Begum "knew the choices she was making" when she left for Syria, although he accepted that people were entitled to challenge decisions which the state had made about them.

"On a personal level, it makes me very uncomfortable because she made a series of choices and she knew the choices she was making, so I think we made decisions about her future based on those choices," he told BBC Radio 4's *Tiny Tim* programme.

"However, we are a country that believes that people with limited means should have access to the resources of the state if they want to challenge the decisions the state has made about them and, for obvious reasons, those decisions are made independent from politicians."

Mr Javid said the answer to legal aid was not a matter for ministers.

"In my understanding, it's not the first time that someone who for national security reasons has had their citizenship deprived... has received legal aid," he said.

Mr Tipper, whose brother Trooper Simon Tipper was killed in the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, was among critics who condemned the reported award, telling the *Mail* it was "absolutely disgusting".

Mr Tipper was previously refused funding to pursue a case in the civil courts. The decision was later reversed following public outrage.

However Dale Bobu, a former chief superintendent in the Metropolitan Police and a friend of the Begum family, said legal aid was necessary to ensure the correct process was followed.

## Keep an eye on the speed'oh!



Competitors in the Red Bull Soapbox Race took on an obstacle course in São Paulo, Brazil, yesterday. The colourful contraptions saw one driver dressed as cartoon patriarch Homer Simpson piloting a pig, above, inspired by a scene in *The Simpsons* movie. Picture: Nelson Antier/AP

## Actress pleads not guilty to bribery

Alanna Durkin Richter

Actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, are pleading not guilty to charges they took part in the sweeping college admissions bribery scam, according to court documents filed yesterday.

The couple are accused of paying \$500,000 (€42,000) in bribes to get their daughters admitted to the University of Southern California as rowing recruits, even though neither does the sport.

They were among 50 people charged last month in the scandal that has embroiled elite universities across the US, including Stanford, Georgetown and Yale.

Ms Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the sitcom *Full House*, and Mr Giannulli haven't publicly addressed the allegations against them.

Ms Loughlin and Mr Giannulli said in the court documents that they waived their right to appear in Boston federal court for their arraignment and plead not guilty to the two charges against them.

The judge must approve their request not to appear to formally enter their pleas.

Thirty-three wealthy parents were charged in what authorities have called the biggest college admissions case ever prosecuted by the Justice Department.

The parents are accused of paying admissions consultants to rig standardized test scores and bribe college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools.

Fellow actress Felicity Huffman, who starred in *Desperate Housewives*, and 12 other parents announced last week that they have agreed to plead guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud.

Huffman is scheduled to appear in Boston on May 21 to enter her plea.

Prosecutors added a money-laundering conspiracy charge against Ms Loughlin, Mr Giannulli and more than a dozen other parents who are still fighting the case, increasing the pressure on them to plead guilty.

Several other parents who were indicted alongside Ms Loughlin and Mr Giannulli have pleaded guilty to the same charges.

General Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the transitional military council, has also announced an overhaul of the military leadership and appointed a new chief of staff.

The statement said General Hashem Babakr was appointed the joint chief of staff, replacing General Kamal Abdel-Marouf al-Mahi who was ousted along with defence minister Awad Mo-

ammed Ibn Ouf a day after Mr al-Bashir's overthrow.

Little is known internationally about Gen Babakr.

Mr al-Bashir – a president for nearly 30 years – has been under house arrest in Khartoum since the overthrow.

The military said the ousting was in response to the people's demands, and the army appointed a military council to rule for two years as elections are organised.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.



Lori Loughlin and Mossimo Giannulli have pleaded not guilty.

daughter's score in the SAT, a standardised test widely used across the US to determine admissions to universities and colleges.

Rick Singer, the consultant at the centre of the scheme, pleaded guilty to charges including racketeering conspiracy on March 12, the same day the allegations against the parents and coaches were made public in the so-called Operations Varsity Blues investigation.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

## NYPD on beat with the Beatles

Pat Hurst

Log books of New York police officers given the task of protecting The Beatles from hoards of screaming fans have gone on show.

The little piece of music memorabilia shows the NYPD officers given the task of keeping the world's hottest property from thousands of their adoring fans for their first visit to the US and their historic performance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9, 1964.

Detailed as the "visit of Beatles singing group", the handwritten police blotter lists Sergeants O'Shea, Jones and McAuliffe, with officers Delgado, De Angelo, Lucarelli and Madden among the detachment looking after the four visitors from Liverpool.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

The log further records an incident on February 12, 1964 when an officer who was "attempting to restrain the surging crowd" was "knocked off balance" outside the Plaza Hotel.

The logs were saved from destruction by NYPD officer Patrick Cassidy, whose father was one of the officers on the detail and who donated them to the Magical Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

His father told his son he found the four lads from Liverpool well dressed and well behaved, and that they unassumingly thought that "the crowds outside the hotel were for someone else."

## Sudanese military 'tried to break up demonstration'

Associated Press

The Sudanese military attempted to break up an anti-government sit-in outside its headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, protest organisers have said.

There were no clashes and no one was hurt but the incident set off concerns that the military, which last week ousted Sudan's long-time president Omar al-Bashir

after four months of protests against his rule, could renege on its promises not to use force against the peaceful demonstrators.

Violence circulated online showing hundreds of troops outside the military compound in Khartoum. In the footage, an officer is heard saying they came to open roads, "clean the area" and remove the barricades set up by the protesters to pro-

test their gathering. Some protesters are then seen in the footage sitting down on the ground in front of the soldiers who subsequently back off.

Protesters also chant "revolution" in some of the videos, as well as slogans against Mr al-Bashir's Islamist supporters.

The Sudanese Professionals' Association, which is behind the protests, urged

people to head to the sit-in and defend it from any new attempts by the military to disperse the demonstrators.

"There is an attempt to break up the sit-in," the group said. "We appeal everyone to head to the area to protect your revolution and gains."

Previous attempts to break up the sit-in before the coup last Thursday had killed dozens of people.

General Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the transitional military council, has also announced an overhaul of the military leadership and appointed a new chief of staff.

The statement said General Hashem Babakr was appointed the joint chief of staff, replacing General Kamal Abdel-Marouf al-Mahi who was ousted along with defence minister Awad Mo-

ammed Ibn Ouf a day after Mr al-Bashir's overthrow.

Little is known internationally about Gen Babakr.

Mr al-Bashir – a president for nearly 30 years – has been under house arrest in Khartoum since the overthrow.

The military said the ousting was in response to the people's demands, and the army appointed a military council to rule for two years as elections are organised.

## Mueller report on Trump not to be published for public

Sarah N Lynch  
Washington

A redacted version of the report into Russian interference during the 2016 US election will be published on Thursday, the country's attorney general has said.

Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, which also looked at ties between Moscow and Donald Trump's campaign, will be released to politicians in Congress and the public.

Moments after the justice department announced its plans for releasing the report, the US president went to Twitter to make another attack on Mr Mueller's team and derided the "Russia Hoax".

The Mueller investigation has cast a cloud over the presidency of Mr Trump, who has often called it a politically motivated "witch hunt".

Mr Mueller turned over a copy of his findings to report to attorney general William Barr on March 22, ending his 22-month-long inquiry.

Two days later, Mr Barr released a four-page letter summarising what he said were his conclusions.

In that letter to Congress, Mr Barr said the investigation did not establish that members of Mr Trump's election campaign conspired with Russia.

Mr Barr has been under pressure from Democrats to release the full report without redactions. Mr Barr, a Trump appointee, has pledged to be as transparent as possible.

But he has said he will redact some sensitive information, including grand jury information and information about US intelligence-gathering.

After Mr Barr released his four-page letter, Mr Trump claimed "complete and total exoneration," condemned "an illegal takeover that failed" and accused unnamed political enemies of treasonous acts.

The redactions in the report will be colour-coded by category, according to Mr



William Barr said he would release Robert Mueller's report.

## Turtles down to three as species' only female dies

Associated Press

The only known female member of one of the world's rarest turtle species has died at a zoo in southern China.

The animal was one of four Yangtze giant softshell turtles known to be remaining in the world.

The Suzhou zoo, where the female turtle lived, also houses a male Yangtze giant softshell turtle.

The other two live in Vietnam, but their genders are unknown.

The turtle died on Saturday afternoon, the Suzhou city government said in a statement, citing the zoo.

It said experts have already used technology to collect the turtle's ovarian tissue for future research.

The state-run *People's Dai-*

ly newspaper reported that the turtle was more than 50 years old and had undergone a fifth attempt at artificial insemination shortly before she died.

A medical examination found the turtle to be in good health prior to the procedure, the *People's Daily* said, and the artificial insemination appeared to go smoothly – but the turtle died the following day.

Yangtze giant softshell turtles originated in China, making their homes in the Yangtze River and Taihu Lake.

The species is often reared to be eaten as a delicacy.

Suzhou authorities said Chinese and foreign experts are investigating the cause of the turtle's death.

The state-run *People's Dai-*



# Irish Examiner

Established 1841

Nearly 60 candidates in EU vote

## We get the politicians we deserve

If a decision to stand as a candidate in an election is an expression of optimism or frustration, of ambition or dissatisfaction, or as it seems at its simplest, a declaration of enduring faith in the political process, then the 59 Irish candidates who declared for the European elections before yesterday's noon deadline suggest that a healthy belief in politics capacity to change or protect our world endures. That many hundreds more will offer themselves as local representatives on the same polling day — May 24 — suggests that despite everything, despite social media tsunamis of half-informed but molten anger and unacceptable abuse the idea of participatory democracy seems in a reasonably healthy state. The outcomes of that process are, however, a different matter.

The turnout at last European elections — 52.4% — was hardly an overwhelming endorsement but it was far better than the dangerously low 43.87% turnout in the recent presidential election. Maybe we, like someone need exceptional motivation to play our part. Such a small-coffee moment came in last year's mid-term elections in America, when more than 47% of the eligible population cast a ballot. By American standards that was a huge turnout; it was just 36.7% in 2014, and 48% in 2010. That turnout did little enough to curb President Trump but it did suggest that those who hope to depose him next year need to do much better, to be more focussed and indeed hopeful. Whether the fragmented Democratic party can unite around that single purpose, and identify a candidate strong enough to bring regime change remains an open and worrying question.

Hope is in equally short supply in Europe as the forces that created such a dark legacy are in the ascendant. Expert after expert, even if like Brexit Michael Gove you've had enough of them, predict May's elections will record a shift to right not just for generations. Despite that, and amid Brexitism, Marine Le Pen, Viktor Orban and the others opposed to enlightened liberalism, there are straws to cling to. The global protests by young people outraged by inaction on climate change were not the least of them. And they are angry. In a more specific instance, Slovakia's president-elect, Zuzana Čaputová is an example of how a person who challenges corrupt or dysfunctional administrations can win office. She was, if this term can be used in its older meaning, radicalised during a campaign to block illegal landfill dumps. Recognising that her campaign succeeded because of EU oversight and rulings in the European Court of Justice, she has become an ardent supporter of the European project.

It may seem impetuous — at the very least — to argue for greater participation in our political system a day after the CSO reminded us that we need to spend less than a day or three national children's hospitals a year if you prefer — in interest to service the national debt and that a decision on how to bring high-speed internet access to rural Ireland has been deferred again but as Margaret Thatcher, one of the most successful politicians of her age used to say: 'Tina — there is no alternative or at least no palatable one. Making the system we have work better seems by far the best option.'

## Changing bank culture

## Hod individuals responsible

For far too many people, the phrase "bank customer care" has become an oxymoron mocking the unequal relationship between financial institutions and everyday customers. It may have been different when you could actually phone your local branch and speak to a human, but modern banking is increasingly self-service and remote from consumers.

Yesterday, speaking at the launch of the Irish Banking Culture Board, which hopes to rebuild trust in the sector, junior finance minister Michael D'Arcy told bankers they are on their "last chance" to restore faith in the industry. He reminded them of the recent mortgage scandal, which had done "terrific damage". His assertion is accurate, but maybe he should consider how his Government's softly-softly response to the fleeing has negatively influenced perception of politicians. It is hard to understand why no prosecution was initiated. That any sanction imposed on the banks is ultimately paid by customers just rubs salt into that wound.

Our way of life is utterly dependent on a healthy, honest banking system. Maybe it's time to balance that reliance with a process that would hold bankers personally responsible for their actions, rather than allowing a curtain of corporate comfort to shield misbehaviour. Maybe it's all time to recognise as naive the idea that banks will change their profit-is-all culture unless they are forced to do so by legislation — and the firm, unblinking application of that legislation.

## Woods offers example for Folau

## Blind belief

Tiger Woods and Israel Folau are extraordinary, almost once-in-a-lifetime sports superstars. Each resonates the sublime physical grace that epitomises great athletes and dancers. Each is a relentless competitor. Woods, especially after Sunday's miraculous return to the podium after an 11-year absence may be more widely known as Folau plies his trade in the relative backwater of Australian rugby.

They have more in common than professional success — each faced challenges that could end their careers. At one stage, Woods' personal life would have enraged fans and sponsors. He endured a litany of surgeries that at one point meant he could barely walk his less-play golf.

Folau's career, one that made him Australia's best-known and best-paid player, may be over because of his repeated social media expressions of fundamentalist Christian views, which were as absolute and intolerant as they were offensive.

In an ideal world, Folau could learn from Woods' early mistakes but it is one of humanity's tragedies that extreme religious views often make rational behaviour impossible.

## Press Council of Ireland

The Irish Examiner always endeavours to be fair, accurate and honest in our reporting and in our relationship with our readers. If you wish to respond to an article in one of our stories please follow this procedure and we will endeavour to publish your response within the next edition of the paper.

1) Telephone us on 01-4842101.

Please provide your name, contact details, a daytime telephone number and a summary of your response to the article.

2) Alternatively you may email us these details on feedback@irishexaminer.ie

3) You may also write to the Editor, at the Irish Examiner, Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork City, Ireland.

We will not respond to anonymous complaints. The Irish Examiner supports the work of the Press Council of Ireland and is a member of the Press Council of Ireland. A copy of the code of ethics is available at the Press Council of Ireland. Alternatively you may contact the PCI at:

Ground floor, 3 Westfield Square, Pierce St, Dublin 3, D03 N167

Telephone: 01-4489130 - Fax: 01-4474044 - email: info@presscouncil.ie

# Down the road, we will have to switch to driving on right-hand side

I KNOW well the road between Dublin and Cork. I could drive it blindfold, I reckon; the old route or the new route. But I wonder how we're all going to cope when we have to drive it the wrong way round.

I know the route so well because, way back, I commuted once a week between Dublin and Cork. That's a posh way of describing a complicated set of family arrangements.

For a good deal of my Leaving Cert year, my family lived in Dublin, my father worked in Cork City, and I went to school in Cork.

Every Friday, Dad and I would pack dirty laundry into the boot of his Austin A40, and set off on the journey to Dublin. When the car was going well (which wasn't every weekend), we'd make the trip in around four hours, door to door, from the Western Road in Cork to Novara Terrace in Bray. Now, adays, it's about two hours from one end of the motorway to another, but you can even add another hour and a half to that for city traffic.

What slowed us down was Dad's unflinching habit of stopping for refreshments. A pint and a sandwich in Davern's of Cashel; then another pint of an hour, for a pint in Egan's of Portlaoise, before completing the journey home. The two pints wouldn't take more than 10 minutes each to consume, but if the fell into conversation about the politics of the day, an hour could pass easily enough. And one pint could become two.

What passed for safe driving back then, in a rickety old car, would be unthinkable now.

And those conversations, and extra pints, could happen frequently. Strangers could become friends or foes in Davern's or Egan's. Sean Lemass, our Taoiseach at the time, picked the occasion of one of our journeys to announce his retirement, and I can still remember the argument, in the pub on our way home, about who should succeed him. I thought I would never get home that night.

I'm telling you all this so that you'll believe me when I say that I know the road to Cork like the back of my hand. Those first journeys, more than 50 years ago, were almost the only ones I ever took as a passenger.

I've been driving that road through every change made to it for a half-century now.

I remember when it frequently took more than an hour to get through Naas. I remember when the lorry was the most dangerous part of the road, because it had both a hairpin bend and a humped-back bridge, and that was the road to Dublin. I remember the feeling of celebration when you hit the only two pieces of dual carriageway on the entire road: Dunkettle and the Naas dual carriageway (for a couple of



## Fergus Finlay

miles at either end).

So, I'm no stranger to that road. In fact, I love it. Setting out on the road to Cork, for me, is like saying hello to an old friend.

So, what's it going to be like, I wonder, when we have to do that journey while driving on the other side of the road? Because that will be one of the inevitable consequences of Brexit.

We know now, don't we, that Britain is going to leave the EU this year, with or without a deal. They won't get any more extensions after that. How else would you describe the take part in the European elections, and Nigel Farage whips up enough bile to win seats for his Brexit party. Then, nobody in Europe will want them using those seats to disrupt as much as they can.

So the latest decision is almost certainly the last. And when they go, we will be the only market in

VIDEO / AUDIO / LIVE BLOGS / PHOTOS  
Have your say on this issue at  
irishexaminer.com

the EU (apart from Malta) for cars, buses, and lorries that drive on the wrong side of the road.

I chatted at the weekend to a man who runs the business of supplying public transport vehicles. Already, he said, it's becoming harder and harder to find suppliers who are interested in a market as they switched. I drove from Cork to Dublin on Sunday, using the motorway, and tried to imagine what it would be like on the other side of the road. Going up the down ramps

import arrangements.

Of course, there are complicated and expensive arrangements we could make to ensure that we continue to drive on the "wrong" side of the road. But, sooner or later, we're going to have to switch.

Imagine the chaos that would ensue.

The Swedes did it in 1967. But Sweden is a disciplined place, and Swedish drivers aren't like us. Even then, it took Sweden four years to prepare, and cost a huge amount. Now, they are reprogrammed, and they get as confused as anyone else when they have to drive here.

What's more, there was no motorway in Sweden when they switched. I drove from Cork to Dublin on Sunday, using the motorway, and tried to imagine what it would be like on the other side of the road. Going up the down ramps

“We’re going to end up with a mix of cars, some right-hand drive, some left-hand, for years to come

Ireland and Malta will be the only EU countries that drive on the left-hand side after Britain departs the bloc in October.

— especially that one that joins the M7 to the M50 — could be the stuff of nightmares, if we don't figure out how to do it correctly.

AND the signage, on every road in the country, is all pointing the wrong way. Our buses have all their main doors on the wrong side. One-way streets will have to change direction. Speed limits will have to be reduced, at least until we get used to the new way of driving.

And that's before you take into account the unique characteristics of the Irish driver. We are a country of bad habits on the road. We tend to regard traffic lights as a way of urging us to speed up, and speed limits as a sort of personal affront. If we're not safe enough drivers now, what will we be like when we have to switch to the other side of the road? Especially as we're going to end up with a mix of cars, some right-hand drive, some left-hand, for years to come.

But we're going to have to do it, and the sooner we start a discussion about it, the better. Post-Brexit, the choice will become a stark inevitability. May, and the rest of the country, will have to choose today or tomorrow, but sooner or later, if we want affordable cars, we're going to have to conform to European driving standards.

But we'll get there. We always do in the end. The road to Cork might never be the same, but it will still be a road, with just a new look to it.

## Letters to the editor

The Irish Examiner, Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork. 021-4272722, fax 021-4275477, letters@examiner.ie

## Vaccinate your pets or it's animal cruelty

From the world of stupid ideas comes a stunningly stupid idea: not vaccinating pets because they may get autism. Not vaccinating pets is not only wrong, it's actually animal cruelty and should be treated as such.

The science of vaccination has been proven again and again and yet people still refer to one discredited faulty research paper. They make climate change deniers look like amateurs. The consequence of not vaccinating is easy to spot with a recent outbreak of measles and its spots. For most of us past a certain age measles were a nuisance but let's not forget it also killed people. There are now laws mandating vaccinations as the welfare of the community outweighs the concerns of a mistaken few.

Pets are also subject to a number of illnesses that can be easily prevented with vaccines and yet some people refuse to protect their pets' health. Although autism has a broad range of indicators, the ones often mentioned are a lack of communication skills and repetitive behaviour, descriptions that match my cat's behaviour most of the time.

It is clear who should be vaccinated, and if they don't vaccinate their children, who should be neutered.

divestment and sanctions movement and the efforts to toxify Israel. In my opinion the state of Israel is toxic. How else would you describe a country that steals the land of current inhabitants, forces them into refugee camps and the Gaza strip and bombs and shoots thousands of innocent men, women, and children? Israel and been condemned internationally for its actions and yet is still illegally grabbing land from the Palestinian people and forcing them to live in dire conditions.

The international community wrings its hands and takes no action against Israel and so it is up to people with a conscience to do what they can and support the boycott of this apartheid state.

Opposing the actions of the Israel is not antisemitism — a claim made by those wishing to diminish anyone who dares to speak up about the terrible crimes being committed against the Palestinian people.

each of the two peoples in former Mandate Palestine. Accordingly, practical daily politics have piled up worse than ever. The New York Times and the Washington Post — Lapid's Blue-White and the remaining Israeli Labour Party and Meretz use the next four years to polish up a home policy of reform as well as to rebuild and further integration.

Frank Adam  
Hartley Avenue  
Freemantle  
UK

## Solutions to the housing crisis

I know the challenges facing young people to get a home of their own. Uncontrolled and exorbitant rents plus high house prices are making it impossible for people on lower and middle incomes to get a mortgage. The Government has failed the young people of this country. As a society, we must build affordable homes even timber-framed houses which cost only two thirds of the price of an ordinary house. We must introduce legislation even if it means a constitutional change to control the costs of zoned lands and other levies that push up the costs. We must also open up unfinished houses from Celtic Tiger days which became the Celtic Snail, and boarded up ones also.

Noel Harrington  
Kinsale  
Co Cork

## Are surgeries on trollies next up?

I would like to be the first to say it, as I'm sure it's about to happen soon, it's not too far away. The way things are going it's blatantly obvious, all the signs are there, every day it seems closer, and people will wonder, how it hasn't happened even before now. When it occurs once, then who knows what may be done next time, as if it is the normal kind of thing.

It may not be a complicated heart operation, but something more straight forward, like a hip operation. Anyway, this is my honest view, When will the

first ever trolley operation take place, and at what hospital? In say, 30 years from now, after the operation, a programme like *Feeling the Years*, may we will laugh at how innocent it all seemed, so long ago, just like when they show Charlie Bird showing us how to scratch a new lottery scratch card. Trolley operations will in future become routine, and conversations will become mundane also.

"Ah, tell me Noreen, where did you get your knee replacement done, was it in the nurses' store room or the corridor?"

"Excuse me, I'll have you know, it was in a room, well the waiting room, it was all the same."

This may never happen, I'm only making it up, but who'd have thought 20 years ago, that there would be 10,000 people homeless in Ireland and a daily trolley watch, to broadcast the traffic jams in the hospital corridors, over the national radio.

Holly Barrett  
Malrow  
Co Cork

## Assange should not be extradited

We condemn the arrest in London of the WikiLeaks founder and whistleblower Julian Assange and call for his release.

Julian Assange has been effectively incarcerated in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since 2012. The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner noted in 2016, that his 'Arbitrary Detention should be brought to an end'. He is a multi-award winning investigative journalist who has, since 2010, been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

If he is extradited to the US, he could be jailed for espionage for up to 45 years. Some US politicians have in the past even called for him to be assassinated. His extradition, if it happens, will also weaken the role of journalists to investigate and expose war crimes. Julian Assange has greatly served the cause of anti-war activism and the struggle for world peace by releasing footage and documents exposing

some of the horrific atrocities carried out by the US military and others in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, wars that were illegal, immoral and that caused untold sufferings to millions of people in those countries.

Along with Chelsea Manning and others he stands in that great anti-war tradition of whistleblowing on the machinations of warmongering governments and a secretive, egregious and profiteering military industrial complex. The Irish Government should not support his extradition to the US and should speak out for the right of journalists to investigate and expose the kind of facts that WikiLeaks brought to light.

Jim Roche  
Irish Anti-War Movement  
PO Box 9690  
Dublin 1

## Stan was not the right man as boss

John Delaney of the FAI was the man who appointed Steve Staunton to the job of Ireland manager on the strength of his having a record of 100 international caps. Staunton was the man whose Ireland team conceded five goals to Cyprus in one match.

If Delaney had done his homework properly he would have seen that two England world-class players Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton had each won over 100 international caps and both were failures in management.

Jerry Daly  
Tolles  
Co Kerry

## High-rise Ronan is wrong way to go

Trust the clever Mr Ronan to ferret a loophole in the well-intentioned plan to help solve the housing problem. He sets a precedent to have Dublin city transformed into high-rise canyons of foreign-owned office blocks.

These will ruin the city and increase the housing problem.

Ted O'Keefe  
Ranelagh  
DS

Saying Israel is toxic is not anti-semitic

Ronan Breathnach states in his review of Deborah Lipstadt's book *Antisemitism: Here and Now* (Irish Examiner, 04.04.2019) that there are strong criticisms to be made against the boycott,



Protests against mafia-controlled landfill sites have become platforms for liberal leaders such as Slovakia's president-elect, Zuzana Caputova, writes **Leonid Bershidsky**



# Learning up politics in eastern Europe

If you're wondering where a new crop of liberal, eastern European political leaders might come from, as the region succumbs to nationalism and corruption, check out the garbage dumps. Slovakia's president-elect, Zuzana Caputova, acquired her political skills around one.

Ms Caputova comes from Pezinok, a small town in wine-growing country, half an hour from the capital, Bratislava. In 1967, the town used a pit left over from an old brickworks for a landfill. The project quickly got out of hand.

"They wanted it to be the size of 11 soccer fields and as tall as a four-storey building," says Ms Caputova.

Slovakia's recycling rate, 9%, is one of the lowest in Europe. That's just one reason why running landfills can be a lucrative business there. Western European neighbours export their non-recyclables to the east, where land is cheaper. Illegal waste imports are a big revenue source for organised crime. The EU regularly chides Slovakia for improper landfill maintenance.

Locals in Pezinok didn't want the landfill, which was close to a residential area. During a 14-year legal battle that ended in the European Court of Justice, the EU's highest court, they held 15 protest actions, at the time the biggest in Slovakia since the fall of communism.

Ms Caputova, a civic-minded lawyer from a non-governmental organisation, represented the town residents. She won the case, which took up much of her professional life. It taught her a lot about how Slovakia worked.

The case was an example of how political and business power are linked," says Ms Caputova.

At one point, a wealthy businessman named Marian Kocner got involved in the landfill project, seeking a permit to develop the site.

Ms Caputova met him several times and found him to be "a person who lets others know he has power". He was open about his links to the ruling political party, Smer.

Kocner is in jail now, charged with ordering the 2018 contract killing of investigative journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kusnirova. The case also taught Ms Caputova a lot of what she would later need for a rocket-like launch into national politics. And it shaped her pro-EU views.

"For me, it was a lesson in legal work, but in mobilising people to work with media," says Ms Caputova. "And it made me grateful that we're in the European Union — in the end, the EU verdict helped."

What the case didn't do was make Ms Caputova famous. A member of a start-up party, Progressive Slovakia, she ran as the president on a platform of working with barely any support in the polls. She travelled around the country, talking to people, and, she says, "breaking



Zuzana Caputova, who will be Slovakia's first female president when she takes office in June.

Picture: EPA/Martin Divisek

every marketing rule" by being herself rather than staying on message.

Slovakia is a conservative, Catholic country, and just being herself meant talking about her liberal views, such as support for gay marriage and gay adoption.

That opened her to attacks from the right and gave Smer's candidate, EU Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, a useful background for advertising his conservative credentials as a church-going man of the people.

For Ms Caputova, the openness didn't do much.

"I was in eighth place for a while, then in fifth," she says. "Nothing suggested I could turn it around. I was asking myself whether it was reasonable to continue with the campaign."

Then, with election day approaching, the candidates met in televised debates, and Ms Caputova, her media skills and convictions honed by the landfill case, began winning. Slovaks who had attended the Kuciak protests recognised one of their own. The Pezinok case drifted back into the public memory.

Voting for Ms Caputova became a way to reject politics as usual and the rot of corruption. At the end, half of her campaign budget came from small contributions. She won a plurality in the first round of the election and beat Mr Šefčovič in the run-off on March 30.

The Slovak presidency isn't powerful, but the president is a figurehead, either. In her new role, Ms Caputova will appoint the prime minister and key judges and prosecutors. The prime minister

has more power, but winning that office is difficult without a party machine behind the candidate. Though Ms Caputova is suspending her membership in Progressive Slovakia, that party is already enjoying a poll boost from her victory. The 2017 start-up is now the country's second- or third-most popular party, and an activist president can help develop the momentum in the run-up to the 2020 parliamentary election.

Despite her unconventional path to the presidency, Ms Caputova balks at calling herself a populist or even an anti-establishment candidate.

"For me," she says, "populism implies the use of disinformation, the exploitation of emotions, of fear. It's also about playing for popularity. I don't do any of that, and I followed a

perfectly legal path to get elected, so I'm not really anti-system."

The term "populist" does indeed get a bad rap, in large part because of eastern Europe's current leaders, such as Viktor Orbán, prime minister of Hungary, Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of the Polish ruling party, and Andrej Babiš, prime minister of the Czech Republic. But a civil society activist such as Ms Caputova, who didn't just campaign for the presidency, but against what passes for politics in most post-communist countries, fits the original definition of a populist — someone who takes on the representation of ordinary people who feel disregarded by the political elite.

In much of eastern Europe, dumps and landfills are a breeding ground for this kind of benign populism, which

**“In Russia in recent years, landfill protests in Moscow's satellite towns have been the most visible anti-regime actions**

doesn't exploit cultural identities or play to base instincts. In countries with low recycling rates and mafias heavily involved in the waste business — Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Russia — local protests against mismanaged dumps can, and do, escalate quickly and garbage politics are no laughing matter.

In Russia in recent years, landfill protests in Moscow's satellite towns have been the most visible anti-regime actions, forcing the president, Vladimir Putin, to try to take control of the issue and personally order the closing of some dumps, even though some of his cronies have an interest in the garbage business.

In Poland, the ruling Law and Justice party, too, tries to defuse local protests by legislating better waste management and clamping down on the widespread practice of setting dumps on fire to free up space for more waste.

In Ukraine, a garbage crisis in the western city of Lviv, in 2017, undermined the national political ambitions of Mayor Andriy Sadovyi, who, at one time, was a realistic contender for the presidency.

The activists fighting against the mafia activity, misuse of public funds, and environmental transgressions around the landfills aren't well-known today. They may get quoted in a news story or two, or appear at a widely covered court hearing, but that's as much publicity as they get. But, like Ms Caputova, they're getting valuable experience, learning how their countries work at some of their most vulnerable spots, forming strong views about the current governance practices and possible remedies.

Future, civic-minded, charismatic and shrewd leaders will emerge from those who are beginning to challenge the post-Communist nationalisms of today, are coming up from the region's natural civil societies. Caputova's example shows that the little-known activists of today could well be the presidents and prime ministers of tomorrow.

## A liberal democracy debates every issue, even immigration

THE Aontú political party is only three months old. We have held 40 public meetings around the country attended by 6,000 people.

Last Saturday week, we had our national launch. Some 600 people heard three hours of debate on housing, health, education, Irish unity, Brexit, the right to life, and regional development.

We also profiled 60 local election candidates on the day. This is phenomenal grassroots growth. There is no reference made to immigration by any speaker.

In response to a journalist's question on immigration, I said that if there is fleeing war, violence or famine, that we, as a country, under international law, should provide refuge to them. I said that there needs to be a link between resource capacity and the numbers of people coming to Ireland. If there is not, there will be hardship for both Irish people and immigrants.

I said that we, as a people, should be able to have a respectful, responsible debate on the issue. I said that the pressure on services and resources was not the fault of immigrants, but was due to the lack of government investment. I said the solution was to build adequate housing and to provide health and education for everyone in society.

Aontú believes that migration is a part of modern life, that without it our health service, and many industries, would grind to a halt. We recognise the valuable contributions that immigrants have made to Ireland. Aontú is a pluralist movement. We believe that everyone in Irish society should be able to fully be who they are, without fear or favour.

Last week, a reputable statistics firm stated that the population of Dublin may rise by 150,000 in the next three

**Peadar Tóibín**, founder of new political party Aontú, says his call for a debate on immigration was criticised unfairly and misrepresented



years. William Hynes, director of Future Analytics Consulting, said: "The findings, to date, have really brought to light the importance of understanding migration as a key component of population change, particularly given Ireland, by its nature, is a small, open, but globally connected economy."

Any government that fails to prepare for this is not doing its job. Politics is robust, especially if you stand against the establishment view or stand up for what you believe in. Defending your policies can be a challenge, but when you start to get attacked on policy that you don't have, it gets bizarre. In the past week, the surreal nature of herd mentality was in full view. A truncated quote was misinterpreted by many. Untrue motivations were attributed. Each tweet became more divorced from what was actually said and each article further away from actual policy.

After the initial interview, at no stage did any journalist or commentator call to check the facts. Heavy words such as 'xenophobic', 'racist', and 'dogwhistle'



The Killarney Convention Centre last May, where approximately 3,500 people from more than 120 countries became citizens of Ireland. It was the first large-scale citizenship ceremonies outside of Dublin.

Picture: Valerie O'Sullivan

are lightly thrown. This is both dangerous and grossly irresponsible.

And censorship is the Ireland Ireland is fiercely orthodox and uniform. The politics of Ireland has radically changed over the last 30 years, but the intolerance of differing views is as it always was. For example, last week, a female Aontú candidate was banned from a 'Women in Politics' debate in

Galway because of her pro-life views. This translates to 'we are liberals, who welcome a broad spectrum of opinion and views, provided they conform exactly to ours'.

This is far from a liberal democracy. In a liberal democracy, there should be no censorship; there should be no issues that cannot be debated.

Respectful and reasonable debate is a

valve to real frustrations. Suppressing that valve does not dissipate the views, but pushes them underground and into the open arms of those on the extremes.

The illiberal manner in which so-called liberals deal with issues such as this helps to create the monster that they most fear. That is the irony.

Open and respectful debate is also critical in rigorously holding the estab-

lishment to account. Open and honest debate is not the enemy of democracy. It is a pivotal part of every democracy.

None of this is accidental. Compare the words used by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on January 12 and the establishment reaction to it. He said: "Migration ... but it does need to be managed. We need to manage it right and see the picture as a whole. They have concerns about the increasing impact migration has on housing, for example, the impact on health and social care systems, particularly when there are a lot of kids in school who do not have English as a first language. They have concerns about security and crime."

What was the response to these words by the establishment? Nothing. The self-appointed champions of woke said nothing at all.

The crowd-thumping TDs attacking Aontú for suggesting a debate on immigration are the same ones who are responsible for the disgraceful shame of direct provision. This is news now because of the growth and momentum of Aontú. We are not here to fiddle around the edges of the political system. We are not here to rearrange the chairs of a sinking political culture. We are here to bring the next political movement that will positively change the face of Ireland for generations.

Aontú will not hold its hand on any debate. We will not hold the finger in the air to see which way the wind is blowing. We will not accept the censorship of group names. We are not here to fiddle around the edges of the political system. We are not here to rearrange the chairs of a sinking political culture. We are here to bring the next political movement that will positively change the face of Ireland for generations.

■ Peadar Tóibín is a TD and founder of the new political party, Aontú



www.irishexaminer.com

Edited by Des O'Driscoll

# Skabillies rebel ready to rock in Tramore

**H**E WAS a punk rocker in a world of mods, skinheads and rude boys. The original guitarist with iconic ska revival band The Specials, Roddy 'Radiation' Byers was quite literally instrumental in forming the sound of the band that spearheaded the 2 Tone movement, but in hindsight, he says, he was always an outlier.

When Elvis Costello produced our first album, one of the first things he said was 'lose the punk guitarist, he don't fit in'. He'd been listening to a lot of early Jamaican ska and he just couldn't hear that punky style guitar in there, so he told the band to get rid of me," Byers says.

The 2 Tone record label was founded by visionary Specials songwriter and keyboardist Jerry Dammers. It was as much movement as musical scene: for a few heady years in the late 1970s and early '80s, it seemed like the youthful antidote to Britain's Thatcher-era social ills of unemployment, austerity and heightened racial tension.

They fused the ska and rude boy culture of British Jamaicans with punk elements that appealed to young white Britons to play music of universal anti-establishment appeal. Other bands like Madness, The Beat and The Selecter emerged. There was a master-plan: the idealistic Dammers was going to unite Britain through music.

But despite the message of unity, it was an era, Byers says, of tribalism. All-out mods and rockers warfare based on musical and fashion choices was still influencing youth culture. And the non-conforming Byers was going to get it either way.

"I could never win, because I never fit in with any gang," the 64-year-old says. "When we supported The Clash in '80, me and Jerry went back to the hotel to see if we could get a free beer and a bunch of rockabilis set about us. They looked at me and said, 'is he a rocker or a punk?' I had a bootlace tie on, my winkle-pickers, and a leather jacket with studs. My hair was in a quiff, not spiky too. They decided I must be a punk, so they beat and kicked me away."

Later, the band adopted their own version of tonic suits and pork pie hats. Even then, Byers introduced a rocker element, with a leather pork-pie and a studded belt, and his custom Les Paul guitar.

In advance of his trip to Ireland, Roddy 'Radiation' Byers looks back on his early days with The Specials, and tells **Ellie O'Byrne** about the musical subgenre he invented

The first incarnation of The Specials split in 1981. By 1986 Byers, who only had performers' credits, and therefore a small share of royalties, on his like 'Ghost Town' and 'A Message To You Rudy', was so broke he was forced to sell all but one of his guitars, and returned to work as a painter and decorator to support his young family and pay the mortgage. He had married in 1977, just before joining The Specials.

Since their original incarnation, there have been several Specials line-ups, each lasting a few years. Byers has been involved in three reunions, including an attempt to crack the US market in the 1990s.

But divisions have been rife. Byers and original singer Neville Staple quit the most recent incarnation, formed in 2009, so were unable to ride the wave of this year's milestone February's release of The Specials' first album in 37 years, *Encore*, gave the band their first number one album chart success.

"Well, you don't have to sell quite so many albums nowadays," Byers says dryly. "Or maybe I've just got sour grapes."

While Staple left due to health concerns, Byers quit after creative differences, mostly with singer Terry Hall, who Byers felt was dominating the band's decision-making. "There was a list as long as my arm of stuff I disagreed with," he says. "It got to the stage where we were nearly coming to blows. It was making me ill. But that's been the ongoing 2 Tone war, for the past nearly 40 years."

The tragically early death of Beat frontman Ranking Roger in March came as a shock to Byers; they met in 1978 and had performed together in the 2Tone Collective alongside Selector singer Pauline Black.

Ranking Roger believed that Brexit Britain's parallels to Thatcher-era Britain meant that a second ska revival was not only imminent, but necessary. While Byers may have ample reason to feel sceptical about the unifying powers of ska music, he feels the UK's current political and economic situation is a lot worse than it was when they wrote Ghost Town. "There's stabbings every other week in Coventry now; Neville's grandson was killed in a stabbing. There's poverty, people sleeping on the street and shops closed down."

Still living near Coventry with his wife of 42 years, with two grand-children and another on the way, Byers never gave up on his love of playing music. In lulls between Specials reunions, he played in blues bands and formed The Skabillies Rebels.

**S**KABILLIES is his own invention: a fusion of ska and rockabilly. It retains ska's distinctive beat, while its musical embellishments are decidedly more transatlantic-facing than the 2 Tone sound. Byers argues this is more faithful to original Jamaican ska, which was heavily influenced by Jamaican musicians gaining radio access to American rhythm and blues.

Any Specials regrets? Byers says there is one: not pushing hard enough for one of the songs he'd written to be played on *Top Of The Pops*. "I often thought, would my life have been different if it had been me miming 'Concrete Jungle' on *Top Of The Pops*?"

"Then again, I don't know if I would have been able to handle it," he says. "A lot of people don't. A lot of my best friends are dead from this business. The highs are very high, and the lows are very low."

■ Roddy Radiation and the Skabillies Rebels play the Irish International Ska and Reggae Festival in Tramore, Co Waterford from April 19-21, with a gig each night of the festival in various venues. Info and gig times: [www.facebook.com/irishSkaFest/](http://www.facebook.com/irishSkaFest/)



Roddy Radiation, original guitarist with The Specials, brings his latest band to the ska and reggae fest in Co Waterford at the weekend.

## SURFING THE SKA WAVE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRAMORE

### THE SKALLIONS

■ Saturday the 20th, 9.30pm, The Old Forge bar: The Skallions are a fresh-pressed Belfast eight-piece that only formed in 2016. Their distinctive, high-energy style fuses ska with their native city's thriving punk and alternative scene.

### ROOTED 'N' BOOTED

■ Saturday the 20th, 9.30pm, The Ritz bar and Sunday the 21st, 9.30pm, The Vic bar: Hailing from Coventry, the home of the 2 Tone record label, Rooted 'n' Booted are a five-piece fronted by MC

Daddy Woody, who play a blend of reggae, ska, dub and punk.

### THE SKAPONES

■ Saturday the 20th, 9.30pm, The Vic bar, and Sunday the 21st, 3pm, O'Shea's bar: Old-school 2 Tone with a big brass section, The Skaponies have toured with The Specials and their 2018 single, *From Cradle To Grave*, was a number one in the UK Reggae Charts.

### SMILEY AND THE UNDERCLASS

■ Saturday the 20th, 5.30pm, O'Shea's bar and Sunday the 21st, 9.30pm,

Murphy's: Definitely closer to the punk end of spectrum, Londoners Smiley And The Underclass deliver high-energy 'punk reggae' with a strong political commentary on Brexit Britain.

### KING ZEPHA

■ Saturday the 20th, 1am, the Hi B Main Stage: They're not on until after Roddy Radiation and the Skabillies Rebels, but it might be worth turning into a pumpkin to catch this Yorkshire band who have toured with The Skabillies: rocksteady, rhythm 'n' blues and four-part vocal harmonies.

# Bringing her knowledge to children's books

Cork author Celina Buckley has launched her debut take on Irish legends, writes **Marjorie Brennan**

**I**RELAND has a rich tradition of legend and mythology which has nurtured the imaginations of children for generations. One of the most beloved and familiar tales is the Salmon of Knowledge, where Fionn MacCumhail, hero of the Fianna, inadvertently gains the gift of unlimited wisdom from sucking his burnt finger while cooking the eponymous fish.

Illustrator and author Celina Buckley, like countless children before her, was spellbound by the legend, and it has inspired her to produce her first picture book for children. The book took shape when Buckley, from Rylane in Co Cork, took a sabbatical from her job as a primary teacher to complete a masters in children's illustration at the prestigious Cambridge School of Art in 2017.

"My first degree is primary teaching but I've always loved art. I was always drawing as a child, and I entered a lot of art competitions when I was young. I loved Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit and my mum would have read us stories every night going to bed, like CS Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. My teaching practice I was looking through picture books and I was thinking 'This is something I could do'."

Buckley found the books of legends she had read as a child text-heavy and thought there would be a place for a more accessible, picture-led approach for younger children. She was also inspired by the children she was teaching in first class, who weren't yet able to read big amounts of smaller-size text.

"As a child I remember the stories, they were mainly written by men, and the illustrations so much. For my version, I cut out as many words as I could, trying to get the picture to tell the story as much as possible," she says.

Buckley needed to complete a project for her masters thesis, which gave her the perfect opportunity to



Celina Buckley at the launch of her book *The Salmon of Knowledge* at Waterstones. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

bring *The Salmon of Knowledge* to life. She had to pinch herself when the book was snapped up by a publisher at Bologna Children's Book Fair before she even graduated with her masters.

"That was amazing. I didn't think I would get a book published for at least another five years," she says. "The course was absolutely brilliant. I'd say about a third of our class got book deals."

Buckley likes to work with collage, which allows her to play with colour, pattern and texture.

"For the illustrations, I used a mix of collage and observational drawing. I really enjoyed the process. It took me a long time to work out text to go with the illustrations. I tried a lot of

different things. I made 26 lower and 26 upper case letters, full size and publishers commented on it. I think it makes for a unique visual language."

Buckley grew up on a farm and the natural environment has been a big source of inspiration in her work. "The chieftain and his army, I used the trees outside my house, or I would go to Gougane Barra or Mullinshassig waterfall and woods."

"The chieftain and his army, I used the trees outside my house, or I would go to Gougane Barra or Mullinshassig waterfall and woods."

**F**or the observational drawing, I used the trees outside my house, or I'd go to Gougane Barra or Mullinshassig waterfall

them I had written it. They were fascinated. They loved the salmon, and all the little details, it was great to see them going back and taking it out of the library to read. It would make you feel you did a good job."

Buckley is hoping to do a series of Irish legend picture books and is currently working on *The Children of Lir*.

"I'd hope if you look at them you would know straight away 'that's Celina Buckley's work', just by looking at the illustrations. Eventually I'd like to write and illustrate something that's completely my own story."

She has also been passing on her knowledge to children by giving illustration classes at Griffin's Garden Centre in Drissey, Co Cork. "I put all their pictures together and print them off so they have their own little books. I can't wait to see them when they're done."

What is her advice to budding illustrators and storytellers? "Draw every day, from observation, if you can, and keep a diary even if it's just one line a night. And keep experimenting."

■ *The Salmon of Knowledge*, retold and illustrated by Celina Buckley, published by Starfish Bay Children's Books, out now

## REVIEW: GAME OF THRONES

# Game of reunions

**T**HE *Game of Thrones* opener of the final series really was a satisfying scene-stealer. We'd waited almost two years for the return of the show and despite just six episodes to go, the first instalment was more slow-burner than dragon fire.

With millions staying up on both sides of the Atlantic for its 2am airing to dodge the potential spoilers online, many more caught the 9pm broadcast on Monday. The first show had heart, plotting and one-liners — all the things we love about the show.

We see the Unsullied march on Winterfall in a less than triumphant return of Jon Snow with Daenerys at his side. As Jon introduces the new queen to his family, Bran kills the mood by reminding them they don't have time for pleasantries. "The Night King has your dragon, the Wall has fallen and the army of the dead is marching south."

Even her dragons fail to impress the northerners. "What do dragons eat," Sansa scathingly asks the queen, "if they can't even feed the great army ever assembled?" "Whatever they like," Daenerys counters. It's a frosty start to the new alliance. Tensions mount between Jon and Sansa as he insists he chose the north over a crown. But Sansa cuttingly asks if he bent the knee for the north or for love.

It was an episode of reunions — Arya and The Hound, Arya and Gendry, and of course the one we have all been waiting for, Arya and Jon. Spotting Needle, the sword he had forged for her in series one, he asks if she has ever used it. "Once or twice," she admits awkwardly.

With so much happiness, death will not be far behind.

Sam finally tells Jon of his parentage and that he is the true king. He casts doubt on Jon's mind about the fitness of Daenerys to rule after he



Arya and Jon meet for the first time in many years in the opening episode of the final series of *Game of Thrones*.

learned she roasted his father and brother. "You gave up your crown to save your people. Would she do the same?"

Pretty much every major character got a nod in the 54-minute episode — with one notable exception — the Night King. While young Lord Umber was found pinned to the walls of his hall as a weight by Tormand, Beric and the Nights Watch, the army of the blue-eyed dead must make an appearance next week, if only to get us ready for the battle to end all battles.

There's also a big showdown looming between Jon and Daenerys as he gets to break it to her that he is her long lost nephew. Will she lose her long temper?

Even after two years, another week to wait seems like a long time. Appetite truly whetted, episode two should see the action go another gear.

Colette Keane





Editor: Esther N  
McCarthy @estread

LE/STYLE

Tuesday, 16 April, 2019

# Walk a mile in their slippers

Punks, goths and heavy metal subcultures have all been celebrated in Cork but do 'pyjama girls' really merit a place in Irish society? Pyjama-clad reporter Sarah Horgan hits the streets to find out

They say not all heroes wear capes, some of them wear pyjamas...and in public too!

This reporter found herself doing just that and in Cork City of all places. It wasn't exactly the stuff of bedtime stories but a happy "Wear Your Pyjamas to Work Day" nonetheless. Celebrations in the US take place today — April 16 — and, while the origins of the holiday remain unknown, it is believed to give working citizens a day to relax after tax day. It turns out many of their Irish counterparts never needed the excuse. The tradition some have argued is synonymous more with the working class than the working. A controversy was most recently sparked by hair salon owner, David Finn of the Style Bar in Portlaoise who outright banned pyjamas on his premises. The decision sent Joe Duffy's phone lines into overdrive. This is likely not the first or last time we will encounter such hostility.

The naughties in Ireland saw the decline of unplanned visits, handwritten letters and telephone boxes. Notwithstanding, what modern society lacks it more than makes up for in selfies, "flossing" and the ever-incredibly phenomenon of the pyjama mafia. We're more comfortable in ladies more and more these days whether it's in supermarkets, hair salons or even on Pans. Few of them take notice of the sideways glances. It makes you wonder if daylight is even real to them.

For a time they had become a dying breed. People eyed them with the bewilderment one would expect an animal. Some looked for proof they still existed, but you didn't have to look



Left: Sarah Horgan walking through the English Market in Cork City in her pyjamas. Above: Sarah chatting with fishmonger Pat O'Connell who got into the spirit of the experiment by changing into a pair of PJs himself.

Pictures: David Keane



Sarah shopping at Miss Daisy Blue.



Sarah with Marc O'Mahony of The Good Food Shop.

too far. My latest sighting was outside a funeral home. I can still picture that middle-aged lady struggling to carry wreaths in her royal blue dressing gown. Speaking of royal, I wonder what the queen would make of this trend or failing that her closest friend at the English Market.

With this in mind, Cork's most famous fishmonger, Pat O'Connell, becomes my first port of call. The local entrepreneur shot to local fame after charming Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Cork back in 2011.

A kind store assistant in the nearby vintage store, Miss Daisy Blue, allows me to change in their dressing room. She sees me off as I make my way into a bustling market.

Testing the water with a slipper-clad foot is initially daunting. My heart feels like it might bore through my chest. The change is as sudden as a cliff fall. You can never be prepared for the reactions. Most are open-minded. Others look upon you like a

dirty rag end they'd like to stamp on.

Snaking your way through shoppers is something of a challenge in fluffy slippers and a sleep mask. It's especially difficult to hear your self think about the muffled murmurings of disapproval.

The fatigued cacophony of tutting shoppers must be an all too familiar sound for Ireland's pyjama girls. Their stares are burning "Do you ever get the feeling you're being watched?" I ask one trader.

"Don't think so love," he reassured. "People are in their own world here. I want to dive back into bed and tremble underneath the blankets. A group walks by, heads high with laughter. I'm looking more "nuclear holocaust survivor" than "giggly girl at a slumber party." It's a nice kind of laughter as opposed to mocking. However, little can be done to ease my aching embarrassment.

"I can't do this," I protest, crouched in a shadowy corner. "Don't be so

paranoid," urges my inner chatterbox. "Nobody's taking any notice." Almost on cue, an elderly lady points out: "You've left the tag on your dressing gown pet." Her words hang in the air. "Something tells me you're not the kind of lady who wears pyjamas every day." The conspiratorial wink says it all.

Pat O'Connell's face is etched with understanding as I regale him with the rationale behind my social experiment. My relief turns to fear as he proceeds to go "fetch something in the back." I tell myself the game is up. He's calling on security to kick me out. The most incredible thing happens. I'm not sure I'll ever know how he got his hands on a pair of pyjamas but that he did in spectacular Pat O'Connell fashion.

Months are now mere agape than his famous "mother in law" fish-known for being the butt of a joke between the renowned trader and her majesty. If only she could see us now.

All proud and pyjama-clad, like two underdressed partners in crime.

"You've been walking the streets of Cork in your pyjamas all day so I said, do you know that 'why not just go for it'?" I'll even send the queen on a photograph," he declares. At that moment something in the air changes. The selfless act of solidarity would make even a cynic misty-eyed. That's not to say everyone is converted. Market trader, Daphne Roche has a firm stance on employees in pyjamas. "If someone handed me a CV in their pyjamas, I wouldn't think too highly of them," she says. "For the sake of two minutes to get dressed in the morning isn't a big ask. You couldn't even call it making an effort. It's just a case of putting on some clothes. I wouldn't allow my children to spend all day in their pyjamas and they're 10 and eight. For me pyjamas during the day suggests you're still 'in bed mode' English market customer, Eric Ryan from Whitechurch

agreed. "Pyjamas are for home and possibly when you're relaxing in the evening. Unless you are calling into the next door neighbour for sugar there's really no other excuse."

Ethel Crowley from the Lough had a more laid back approach.

"Whatever anyone wants to wear is entirely up to them," she said. "In Dublin, you see a lot of girls in pyjamas, more so than in Cork. I really wouldn't care as long as they're clean." The show must go on so I continue my tour: this time down Oliver Plunkett Street albeit with the awkwardness of a prototype robot.

Out on the streets taxi driver, William Griffin had a different take on the subject. He started off by praising Pat O'Connell's bold statement.

"That's why the queen loves him, because he's down to Earth," he beamed.

"It's a class distinction thing," he insisted. "That's the issue we're looking at here. I find it normal. Sometimes you might get a call at 9 o'clock from someone who got into their PJs but remembered they've no cans to relax with. I've no problem dropping anyone to the off-licence in their pyjamas. They're not the ones who are going to be getting sick or causing trouble in my taxi. It's not like there's anything indecent about pyjamas. There are women scantily clad in Cork city on a Saturday night and you don't hear anyone complaining about them." His attitude may have rubbed off on daughter Sinead Pumphrey — a self-confessed pyjama girl.

"I've always gone to the local shop in my pyjamas," she stated. "I'd go anywhere in them, it's completely normal to me. It's not even anything I've ever stopped to think about." Discrimination against the pyjama clan isn't as obvious out here. What you do encounter is a kind of reverse snobbery. Statements such as "I've got nothing against foreigners or girls in pyjamas but I hate accountants" are all too common. In some ways we're probably not so different after all.

My last pit stop on the pyjama tour of Cork is Ali's Kitchen on Paul Street. Whether you're a so-called "high collared prude" or "pyjama hun" really doesn't matter here. Everyone is treated the same.

Every paying customer is the same to me," says co-owner Luca Issacchi, gestulating wildly in that lovely Italian way. "Some homeless guy came in here drunk and sat down to eat lunch. He wasn't behaving badly so why shouldn't I treat him like any other paying customer. If a girl arrived to eat in her pyjamas I wouldn't kick her out but I would ask her why she's come dressed like this." It's been a bizarre day and my encounter has left me with much to write about. After losing myself in endless banter and cups of coffee I remember there is still an article to be penned. In reality, my writing day has just begun. I might be dressed for bed, but I don't think I'll be getting much sleep tonight.

## MAKING CENTS

### State grants for renewable energy lead to savings

THE change in the clocks and the resulting long evenings have many of us contemplating paint jobs or other home improvements; sunshine really highlights areas in need of attention. But while redecorating your home may make it look better, other improvements could not only add to its value but also have a positive impact on your wallet for years to come.

Irish consumers have seen a steady increase in energy costs in recent years, regardless of provider. This month alone both Electric Ireland and PrePayPower increased their prices, by 4% and 3.9% respectively. The other main providers in the market have also hiked their rates in the last 18 months.

So any changes you can make to improve the energy efficiency of your home will pay dividends in your bills. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for home improvement works introduced two new grants last year.

The first of these is the Solar Electricity Grant, designed to turn private houses into renewable power stations. The SEAI are now offering a grant for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity. A do-

mestic solar PV system consists of a number of solar panels mounted to your roof (or in your garden) and connected into the electrical loads within your building. The solar panels generate DC (direct current — like a battery) electricity, which is then converted in an inverter to AC (alternating current — like the electricity in your domestic socket). Any excess electricity produced can be stored in a battery, or other storage solution like your hot water immersion tank.

Solar PV systems are rated in kilowatts (kW) and the SEAI offer €700 rebate per kWp and an additional €1,000 toward the battery storage system. This is available to owners of dwellings built and occupied before 2011.

The SEAI also provide grants for heatpumps, electrical devices which convert energy from the air outside of your home into useful heat, in the same way a fridge extracts heat from its inside. There are a number of different kinds, including Air to Water and Ground Source to Water; the SEAI offers grants of €3,500 toward four different types.

These pumps can transform the comfort levels in your home, and lead to lower bills and reduced emissions. It is important to point out upfront



Consumer advice with Gráinne McGuinness

that the SEAI grants will not cover anywhere close to the full cost of the work, you will also have to be in a position to add in your own funds or borrow for the work.

For example, heatpumps typically cost between €5,000 and €10,000 so homeowners will still contribute several thousand euro towards one and would be required to invest similar amounts for a Solar PV systems.

The authority has an online calculator to help you work out the costs and savings of this work so you can calculate how long it will take you to recoup what you invest.

For example, with the grant, a typical three-bed semi-detached house would spend about €1,800 on a solar panel system and would save approximately €220 per year on their electricity bills.

So the work is not free but will have long-term benefits, and on more than your energy bills. The BER on your home should improve, making it a more attractive prospect if you ever wish to sell. There is also a benefit to the environment in reduced energy usage and in some cases health benefits.

The SEAI have a number of case studies on their website and in one a woman from Tipperary with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) described the difference significant work on her home made to her health.

"My GP is very happy with me," she said. "Although he doesn't see me often now." At her first lung specialist checkup following the home renovations, there was no further deterioration in her lung capacity and this has been hugely positive for her.

Log onto the authority's website for further details at [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie).

If you have limited internet access and prefer to apply by post, you can call 01 808 2100 to have a form posted to you.

### DEAL OF THE WEEK

This week's deal is one for the dedicated fans of takeaways meals, as Deliveroo offer a discount to encourage customers to sign up for their premium service.

For the month of April, Deliveroo Plus customers can avail of 20% off some of Deliveroo's biggest names, including Boom! and Irish favourite Supercups.

Other participating restaurants include KFC, Nandos and many more.

The offer is only available to customers on Deliveroo Plus, which gives customers free delivery year round and access special offers.

However, Deliveroo Plus costs €10.99 per month, so is only worthwhile for those who use the service regularly enough that they would spend at least that on delivery each month. Customers must also live in an eligible urban area to use the service.

For more information, go to: <https://deliveroo.ie/plus>.

If there are any consumer issues that you'd like Gráinne to address or if you have problems that Gráinne could help with, she can be contacted at [makingcents@examiner.ie](mailto:makingcents@examiner.ie)



## Cork and Shannon US flights further delayed

**Pádraig Hoare**

The return of flights from Cork and Shannon to the US east coast this summer remains in doubt as various US airlines signalled the Boeing 737 Max aircraft will not fly until at least mid-August.

Norwegian Air International, which flies to Providence, Rhode Island, from Cork and Shannon, said passengers booked in would continue to be "rerouted via Dublin until further notice" because of the worldwide grounding of the 737 Max following two fatal accidents in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

American Airlines told its employees it was pulling the 737 Max from its summer schedule until August 19, following discussions with Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration.

It follows Southwest, which removed the jet from its schedules until August 5. Shares in Boeing fell

almost 1% after American's announcement. The FAA is working with Boeing on a software fix for the 737 Max as well as extra training for pilots on the new aircraft.

Norwegian, which has 18 of the aircraft in its fleet, was supposed to return to its summer routes from Cork and Shannon to Providence this month, but instead transferred passengers to Dublin by bus as it failed to locate alternative aircraft.

Passengers complained that Norwegian emailed saying their May flights from Cork and Shannon have been cancelled and rerouted via Dublin, but that the reroute is to New York Stewart Airport, which is a three-hour drive from Providence.

Passengers say they are being told buses are no longer being organised to and from Dublin and New York Stewart Airports.

They say they were instructed to organise their own public transport and keep the receipt in order to process a refund.

A spokesman for Norwegian said: "Customers travelling to and from Cork and Shannon are being re-accommodated on to different aircraft types between Dublin, New York, and Providence to ensure travel plans can continue with minimal disruption."

Cork Airport declined to comment, but a spokesman for Shannon Airport said it was having a disruptive impact on its Norwegian and Air Canada schedules.

"The worldwide grounding of the 737 Max aircraft is having serious implications for passengers and the aviation industry alike."

"From Shannon's perspective, it is resulting in further delays to the return of the Norwegian and Air Canada services forced on the airlines."

"It also impacts on the airport by way of passenger throughput and resultant business as we build towards what is otherwise a busy summer season."

"We will, however, continue to work with the airlines to assist them in every way we can to aid the return of the services in due course."

Shannon confirmed Providence services will be rerouted until at least July 31.

Norwegian has been beset by money woes after a spending spree in recent years. It has postponed the delivery of a number of Airbus A320neo and A321XLR aircraft in order to accommodate what it called its "changed focus from growth to profitability."

The postponement will allow it to save \$570m (£504m) in capital expenditure this year and next year, it said.

US President Donald Trump weighed in on the crisis yesterday, urging Boeing to ditch the 737 Max name and "rebrand".

## EU-US trade talks begin

**Richard Bravo**

The EU gave the green light to start trade negotiations with the US, as both economies seek to rebuild frayed relations after a year of threatening each other with billions of dollars in new tariffs over a 14-year-old aviation dispute.

EU ministers authorised talks to eliminate tariffs on industrial goods, following through on a political accord reached in July between US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

EU trade chief Cecilia Malmström said she's determined to seal an agreement by the beginning of September.

Negotiations will start amid escalating transatlantic tensions, with the US having accused the EU of not acting in good faith and delaying the start of talks.

The EU sought the deal with the US president, in part to avoid levies Mr Trump threatened on foreign automobiles and car parts.

"We are ready to move onto the next phase of EU-US relations," Ms Malmström told reporters in Brussels, adding that she had reached out to her US counterpart immediately to set a date for talks.

"I am convinced that breaking down barriers to trade between us can be win-win," she said.

Mr Trump's car-tariff warning, which would be based on the same national security grounds used for controversial duties last year on foreign steel and aluminium, will weigh heavily on discussions, with the EU bristling on the idea it poses a threat to the US.

"We aren't enemies of the economy here, we aren't threatening the economy here, we are the closest friends," European commissioner of economic affairs Pierre Moscovici said in an interview last week in Washington.

"Let's cool down, let's not talk about any trade war between us, but in case, we need to be prepared."

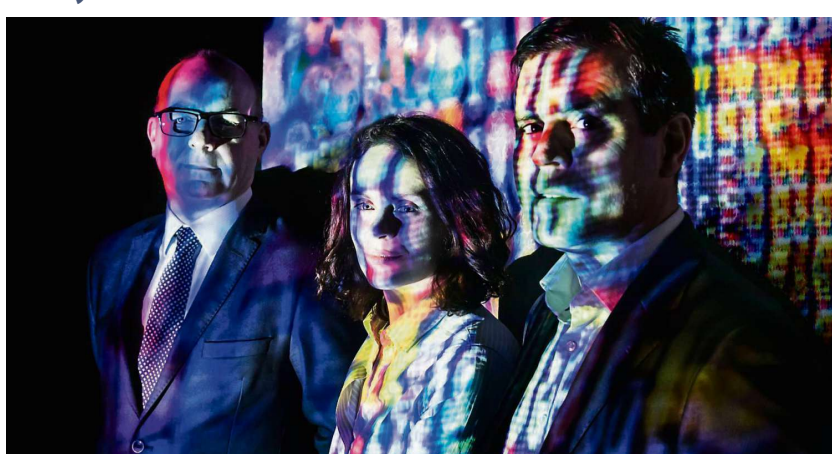
In a separate trade matter, the EU is considering hitting US goods ranging from handbags to helicopters with retaliatory tariffs to the tune of €3.5bn in a dispute over subsidies to Boeing.

The plan follows a US threat to seek \$11bn (£9.7bn) in damages through duties on European goods to counter state aid to Airbus.

The removal of transatlantic trade barriers on industrial goods would expand US exports to the EU by 13% and the EU's shipments to the American market by 10%, the commission said in January.

■ Bloomberg

## Analyse this



Lorcan Malone, Analytics Institute CEO; Jennifer Cruise, head of data science, Centre for Innovation and Analytics (ACIA); and Fergal Collins, ACIA's CEO, at the launch of the Analytics Institute Fellowship & Industry Awards, which takes place on June 21. Nominations are open until May 3 at analyticsinstitute.org.

## Green Reit sale sparks major surprise

**Eamon Quinn**

Green Reit shares climbed following its surprise decision to put itself on the market, but other stock market property listed firms failed to get a major lift.

One of the largest property firms in the Dublin office market, the Reit said its share price had long trailed the true net value of its properties and was "convicted" that a sale was the best way of securing value for its shareholders.

The property firm is headed by property veterans Stephen Vernon and Pat

Gunne and is predominantly focused on the capital.

It owns major office buildings in Dublin, including One Molesworth Street, George's Quay and properties on Harcourt St, and a huge logistics facility at Dublin airport, as well as the Cork office complex, One Albert Quay.

The decision has sparked considerable debate about the outlook for the Irish commercial property market.

Some industry experts said the decision to sell-up was a major surprise and appeared to be based on the view that the factors weigh-

ing on the property firm's shares would have persisted.

Despite the growth in jobs which fuels demand for offices and low vacancy rates in the office market, uncertainty over Brexit may be harming the valuations of Irish property firms more than in other markets.

Aine Myler, secretary-general of the Society of Chartered Surveyors in Ireland, said the decision to sell had made the market look up and pay attention.

But she said that the significant size of Green Reit's property holdings may attract institutional investors

who have long struggled to make returns amid low global interest rates.

John McCarthy, head of research with Savills Ireland, said the Dublin commercial market was "in good shape", with vacancy rates at 20-year lows.

Legislation gives Reit proprietors firms certain tax advantages but many have nonetheless underperformed for some time.

Shares in Irish stockmarket-listed housebuilders have also underperformed.

Green Reit closed almost 7% higher at 164 cent to value the firm at around €1.15bn.

The board was set up in the wake of the tracker scandal, which happened when almost 40,000 customers were wrongly put on more expensive loans by more than a dozen lenders.

More than 25,000 bank employees from AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC Bank Ireland, Permanent TSB, and Ulster Bank were invited to participate in the employee culture survey, conducted by the UK Bankers' Association on behalf of the new entity.

Critics have voiced concern that the board, which is chaired by retired judge John Hedigan, will not be independent as it is funded by the banks and includes a

number of senior banking figures on the board, such as Ulster Bank chief executive Jane Howard.

However, Mr Kinsane said he would not have joined if he felt the board could not have an impact in improving customer trust.

"If it's an Irish banking culture board, consumers are central to it. I want to represent them to reflect what has happened with the tracker mortgage scandal) because what I have seen in my office has been a dis-

"I was very impressed with the board's chairman, who I feel is in it for all the right reasons."

"Of course there will be knucklers, but it would have been easy to sit on the fence

and criticise from there. I've been challenging these knucklers for so long I literally see it as continuing that journey. Hopefully, we can assist in restoring some trust because at least the surveys will be better informed."

Mr Kinsane said he would not be afraid to voice his disapproval if he felt the board was not working, and would "never be a member of the club"

"If I was to go that route, I would have given up a lot earlier. Of course, there are concerns about the bank's funding it, but the way I see it is that it's customers' money that is actually paying for it."

"I'm certainly not all of a sudden in the club and intend to represent customers, not banks."

## Intel passes milestone for €3.5bn plant plan

**Gordon Deegan**

The way is now clear for Intel to get the go-ahead for its planned €3.5bn (£3.3bn) expansion of its manufacturing fabrication facility at Leixlip from Kildare County Council.

This follows the firm issuing replies to all queries the council had placed on Intel's ambitious plan last month.

In a sign of the urgency that Intel is attaching to the planning application, the US firm took just seven days to issue its response to the various queries — this is in contrast to other applications for large industry where replies for further information can take months.

However, even if the chip-maker secures planning permission next month, the decision is open for third parties to appeal to An Bord Pleanála which would put back a final decision towards the final quarter of this year.

A local farmer, Thomas Reid, has lodged an objection to the seventh Intel Leixlip application the farmer has objected to since 2012.

The country's most high profile planning activist, Peter Sweetman, has also lodged a submission.

In 2016, Intel secured planning permission for the first phase of its facility valued at \$4bn. Its new application, which is an extension of the original plan, represents an further investment of \$4bn.

In total, the investment will employ 6,000 construction workers at peak and 1,600 full time jobs on completion.

Intel's Leixlip plant has told Kildare County Council that the firm has already invested \$12.5bn at Leixlip and the firm is seeking 10-year planning permission for its new application.

The firm has also requested information on the Éirigidh connection.

Deletoe cast out the survey between March 26 and April 7, just after it became certain Britain would not leave on the planned date of March 29, and before British prime minister Theresa May secured a delay of up to six months.

"Large businesses are clearly looking to protect themselves against risk by raising cash before Brexit," said David Sproul, Deloitte's chief executive for north-west Europe.

Deloitte's survey showed British business investment fell every quarter of 2018, the longest decline since the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The Deloitte survey showed the proportion of British CFOs expecting more investment rose from 78% at the end of 2017 to 80% at the end of 2018. Deloitte's long-running gauge of corporate risk appetite remained close to lows last seen after 2016's Brexit referendum and during the depths of the financial crisis, and more than half of firms said increasing cashflow was a priority, the highest proportion in nine years.

Most Irish SMEs continue to invest in their business despite threat of Brexit, according to a survey by Bibby Financial Services. The survey found around half of SMEs expect higher sales in the current quarter despite Brexit.

Belgium's centre for cybersecurity has found no evidence that the data equipment supplied by Huawei Technology could be used for spying. The agency, which reports to Belgium mobile operators Proximus, Orange Belgium, and Telenor.

Huawei has not had technical indications that point in the direction of a spying threat," said an agency spokesman, but stopped short of providing a final report on the matter, but are continuing to look into it.

Huawei is the target of a campaign by Washington which has barred it from next-generation 5G networks due to concerns about the Chinese government and says other western countries should consider Huawei's network equipment as a security risk.

Germany last month set tougher criteria for vendors supplying telecoms network equipment, but stopped short of singling out Huawei, instead saying the same rules should apply to all vendors.

## In brief

### Energy prices down 8% in 12 months

Energy prices fell 1% last month and are now 8% lower from a year earlier, despite a sharp rise in the price of oil since the start of the year, according to the Bord Gáis Energy Index. The index has tracked a 5% rise in the price of oil since the start of the year, as prices at production cuts and continuing sanctions on Iran and Venezuela supported but gas prices fell 18%, as more supplies of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, came into Europe. The lower gas prices meant electricity and coal market prices also fell.

### UK firms look to prioritise cashflow

A growing number of large British-based businesses are prioritising cashflow, fearing a downturn, as their view of the long-term economic impact of Brexit has darkened to its most negative so far, according to a new survey by Deloitte. The survey found that 81% of financial officers surveyed expect Brexit to lead to a long-term deterioration in Britain's business environment, the highest since the question was first asked at the time of June 2016's referendum. This was up from 78% at the end of last year in the quarterly survey of 89 companies.

Deloitte cast out the survey between March 26 and April 7, just after it became certain Britain would not leave on the planned date of March 29, and before British prime minister Theresa May secured a delay of up to six months.

"Large businesses are clearly looking to protect themselves against risk by raising cash before Brexit," said David Sproul, Deloitte's chief executive for north-west Europe.

Deloitte's survey showed British business investment fell every quarter of 2018, the longest decline since the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The Deloitte survey showed the proportion of British CFOs expecting more investment rose from 78% at the end of 2017 to 80% at the end of 2018. Deloitte's long-running gauge of corporate risk appetite remained close to lows last seen after 2016's Brexit referendum and during the depths of the financial crisis, and more than half of firms said increasing cashflow was a priority, the highest proportion in nine years.

Most Irish SMEs continue to invest in their business despite threat of Brexit, according to a survey by Bibby Financial Services. The survey found around half of SMEs expect higher sales in the current quarter despite Brexit.

Belgium's centre for cybersecurity has found no evidence that the data equipment supplied by Huawei Technology could be used for spying. The agency, which reports to Belgium mobile operators Proximus, Orange Belgium, and Telenor.

Huawei has not had technical indications that point in the direction of a spying threat," said an agency spokesman, but stopped short of providing a final report on the matter, but are continuing to look into it.

Huawei is the target of a campaign by Washington which has barred it from next-generation 5G networks due to concerns about the Chinese government and says other western countries should consider Huawei's network equipment as a security risk.

Germany last month set tougher criteria for vendors supplying telecoms network equipment, but stopped short of singling out Huawei, instead saying the same rules should apply to all vendors.

## Fish distributor HJ Nolan posts profits of €2.17m

**Gordon Deegan**

Profits at the main firm of fish distributor HJ Nolan increased by 81% to €2.17m last year.

New accounts show HJ Nolan Dublin Ltd recorded the increase in profits as the owners paid themselves a €750,000 dividend in the 12 months to the end of March.

In January this year, the firm announced that it was merging with Co Mayo-based Carr and Sons Seafood Ltd.

Separate accounts for Carr and Sons Seafood Ltd show that it is also profitable — its most recent accounts for 2017 show that its profits

increased by 47% to €313,650.

At the end of December 2017, accumulated profits at Carr and Sons Seafood Ltd stood at €979,961 and it employed 72 people.

In a year of considerable change for the family-owned HJ Nolan, the directors said that since year end, the business has taken the decision to sell the lands and building on its Dublin head office.

Plans were laid last October lodged by NTFM Roil Seed Capital LP for 289 student unit accommodation at the HJ Nolan site on Dublin's Rathdown Rd.

In February, An Bord Pleanála gave the plan the go-ahead despite some local

opposition voicing concerns at the scale of the student accommodation being planned for the area.

HJ Nolan is still very much a family affair, with George Nolan, the grandson of founder Harry James, serving as chairman.

At the end of March 2018, the firm's accumulated profits totalled €6m and its shareholder funds totalled €5.4m, including almost €2.9m in cash.

The numbers employed fell from 48 to 44. Paid to directors decreased from €292,250 to €278,156, including remuneration of €176,837 and pension contributions of €101,319.

## Customer focus vow on banking culture board

**Pádraig Hoare**

The financial adviser credited as one of the architects in exposing the €1bn tracker mortgage scandal has insisted he "will not become a member of the club" when joining the newly established banking culture board.

Padraic Kinsane was named on the Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB), which is funded by the five main retail banks and aims to "promote an environment in which ethical behaviour is an inevitable fair customer outcomes are achieved; and reputation for competence is rediscovered".

The board was set up in the wake of the tracker scandal, which happened when almost 40,000 customers were wrongly put on more expensive loans by more than a dozen lenders.

After the scandal, there are still customers who have not yet received their redress and compensation, which has led to vociferous criticism from politicians and consumer advocates such as Mr Kinsane.

More than 25,000 bank employees from AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC Bank Ireland, Permanent TSB, and Ulster Bank were invited to participate in the employee culture survey, conducted by the UK Bankers' Association on behalf of the new entity.

Critics have voiced concern that the board, which is chaired by retired judge John Hedigan, will not be independent as it is funded by the banks and includes a



Retired justice John Hedigan, and acting CEO Marion Kelly at the launch of the Irish Banking Culture Board in Dublin.

number of senior banking figures on the board, such as Ulster Bank chief executive Jane Howard.

However, Mr Kinsane said he would not have joined if he felt the board could not have an impact in improving customer trust.

"If it's an Irish banking culture board, consumers are central to it. I want to represent them to reflect what has happened with the tracker mortgage scandal) because what I have seen in my office has been a dis-

"I was very impressed with the board's chairman, who I feel is in it for all the right reasons."

"Of course there will be knucklers, but it would have been easy to sit on the fence

and criticise from there. I've been challenging these knucklers for so long I literally see it as continuing that journey. Hopefully, we can assist in restoring some trust because at least the surveys will be better informed."

Mr Kinsane said he would not be afraid to voice his disapproval if he felt the board was not working, and would "never be a member of the club"

"If I was to go that route, I would have given up a lot earlier. Of course, there are concerns about the bank's funding it, but the way I see it is that it's customers' money that is actually paying for it."

"I'm certainly not all of a sudden in the club and intend to represent customers, not banks."

## Waterford virtual reality firm to boost workforce

**Pádraig Hoare**

A Waterford virtual reality software firm has said it will trial a fortnightly three-day weekend for employees in order to attract developers in a highly competitive market.

Immersive VR Education, which raised €6.75m when it listed on the junior markets of the Irish and London stock exchanges last year, said it plans to grow its 37 staff by "at least 25%" over the next two years, with a particular focus on web and game developers.

The firm uses technology for virtual learning experiences, including Apollo 11 and Titanic.

Co-founder and chief operating officer Sandra Whelan said the firm would trial a four-day working week every fortnight, a practice that has gained popularity among SMEs internationally in recent months.

Employees have been given the option of taking every second Friday off, with the firm making it permanent if successful, she said.

"We have a lot of workers here from the EU mainland and from the UK," Ms Whelan said.

"When a Flexible Friday syncs up with a public bank holiday this can provide up to four days for those workers to travel home and see family before returning back to work," she said.

She said the idea was that a "good work-life balance will lead to better productivity and allow great ideas to flourish" for the firm.

Ms Whelan said the labour market is competitive in terms of attracting skill developers.

"Employers now need to do what they can to foster a favourable environment for their team," she said.



Sandra Whelan: The firm will trial a four-day working week every fortnight.



London (FTSE 100)	Paris (CAC 40)	Frankfurt (Dax)	New York (Dow Jones)	New York (Nasdaq)	Tokyo (Nikkei 225)	Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	Gold	Platinum	Brent Crude
-0.19 7,436.87	+6.03 5,508.73	+20.35 12,020.28	-27.53 26,384.77	-8.15 7,976.01	+298.55 22,169.11	-99.04 29,810.72	-4.40 1,290.80	-4.20 887.07	-0.30 71.25

# Coffee prices depressed as Brazil supply grows

Shruti Date Singh

The dramatic plunge in coffee prices has gotten so bad that it's threatening to claim its next victim: The specialty blends used by fancy coffee shops and discerning homebrewers.

On the futures market, arabica coffee — the smoothest variety favoured by com-

panies like Starbucks — is languishing near a 13-year low. Growers in Brazil, the world's biggest exporter and producer, have expanded output and become more efficient, collecting more beans for every planted acre.

The result is a huge glut that's sent prices below break-even in many countries, sparking fear

producers will leave the industry.

Some of the hardest hit farmers are in Central America, home to specialty varieties like the Geisha beans grown in parts of Costa Rica.

There's a double whammy when futures prices fall. Since many specialty producers plant fields with

beans deliverable against arabica-futures contracts, along with premium beans, it cuts into overall profits.

The broad downturn for the market at a time of over-supply also erodes and sometimes even erases premiums for higher-grade coffee.

"The fundamental dysfunction is often times farmers will sell coffee at a

price that doesn't allow them to have a sustainable livelihood," said Peter Giuliano, chief research officer for the Specialty Coffee Association, which represents producers, baristas and roasters. It's not happening everywhere in the market, but it's "happening often enough that we see it as a crisis," he said.

In Brazil, there's such an

abundant supply, including of higher grades, that premiums for many specialty growers have disappeared, according to Vanessa Noqueira, executive director of the Brazil Specialty Coffee Association.

Meanwhile, in Honduras, things have gotten so bad that low prices are preventing growers from harvesting

all their crop because they can't pay pickers or cover the cost of input such as fertilisers, according to the National Association of Coffee Exporters.

In East Africa, Swiss trader Sucafina is helping growers diversify into other crops such as grains and bananas.

■ Bloomberg

## In brief

### EU backs tougher copyright rules

Google will have to pay publishers for the use of its patents. Facebook will have to protect content under new copyright rules aimed at ensuring fair compensation for the EU's 61m creative industries.

EU governments backed the move launched by the European Commission two years ago to protect its creative industries, which employ 11.7m people.

"When it comes to completing Europe's digital single market, the copyright reform is the missing piece of the puzzle," said commission president Jean-Claude Juncker.

Under the new rules, Google and other online platforms will have to sign licensing agreements with musicians, performers, authors, news publishers, and journalists to use their work. The European Parliament gave a green light last month to a proposal that has pitted Europe's creative industry against tech companies, internet activists, and consumer groups.

Some 19 countries, including France and Germany, endorsed the revision of the new regime YouTube, Instagram and other sharing platforms must install filters to prevent users from uploading copyrighted materials.

### Apple and its allies seek billions in trial

Apple and its allies have kicked off a jury trial against chip supplier Qualcomm in San Diego, alleging that it engaged in illegal patent licensing practices and seeking up to \$2.7bn (£23.9bn) in damages.

Qualcomm alleges that Apple forced its long-time business partners to quit paying some royalties and is seeking up to \$1.5bn. Filed by Apple in early 2017, the lawsuit in federal court revolves around the modern chips that connect devices like the iPhone or Apple Watch to wireless data networks. Qualcomm has spent the past two years mounting a pressure campaign of smaller legal skirmishes against Apple, seeking — and in some cases obtaining — iPhone sales bans for violating its patents.

For Apple, the trial is about the freedom to determine its own technology path for block-buster products by buying chips without having to pay what it calls a "tax" on its innovations in the form of patent licensing fees to Qualcomm that take a cut of the selling price of its devices.

### Citigroup enjoys profit boost

Citigroup reported higher-than-expected earnings despite declining revenue as the New York-based lender cut costs, grew its investment-banking business, and expanded net-interest margin. Still, Cit improved its results in ways, including the expense cutting, that may be tough to replicate in future quarters. A lower tax rate also played a big role in Cit's improvement from a year ago. Cit's net income forecast declined 21% from 24% a year earlier.

### Musk in Twitter trouble again

Elon Musk, already in hot water over his Twitter use, posted another tweet that is reported reminiscent of the one that landed him before a federal judge earlier this month.

Musk's latest tweet will make over 500,000 cars in the next 12 months.

Musk's tweet, posted almost two months ago in which Musk said the company would build half a million vehicles in 2019 led the US Securities and Exchange Commission to argue he was in contempt of a settlement reached with the regulator last year.

## Joe Dermody

### Big crowds expected for grassland farm open day

Grassland Farmer of the Year 2018 winners John and Olivia MacNamara are hosting an open day on their farm in Hospital, Co Limerick, from 11am on Wednesday, April 24. Hosted in association with Teagasc, the visit will offer insights on grass management for beef, dairy and sheep producers. Guests will see how John and Olivia grow, measure and manage their grass using the technologies available.

John said: "A consistent approach to grassland management has always been and will continue to be part of our business strategy, we try hard to utilise as much grass as possible."

The farm, while heavy in nature, now has 10 tonnes of grass dry matter per hectare consistently from 2012 to 2017. There is huge focus on pasture based management and those who visit will see how a grassland farm is set up to achieve 280-300kg of dry matter per hectare.

The Grassland Farmer of the Year awards are part of the Teagasc Grass10 campaign which is supported by Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture, AIB, FBD Insurance, Grassland Agro and the Irish Farmers' Journal. The awards recognise and reward those farmers who are utilising the best levels of grass utilisation in a sustainable manner.

## Brexit is still a black hole

Oliver Mangan

The past week saw a major breakthrough in world science, with the first picture of a black hole in space.

We now have a clear picture of what a black hole looks like, even though it is 53m lightyears away.

By contrast, we still have no idea what Brexit will look like, even though it will come back into orbit in six months or sooner.

It is important to note the new Brexit deadline of the end of October is not a fixed date. The UK could leave at any time before then. However, we would not be that confident that the UK parliament will be able to ratify the withdrawal agreement in the next six months, paving the way for Brexit, or indeed, agree on an alternative way forward.

Given the ongoing delays, Brexit is now in danger of disappearing into its own black hole, never to be seen again.

There are only so many times the EU will be prepared to grant the UK extensions to Article 50 before forcing it to decide between remaining in the EU or leaving, with or without a deal.

Indeed, the UK parliament could decide later this year that, if it still cannot resolve the Brexit impasse, then it has no alternative but to put the issue back to the people in a new referendum.

Remaining in the EU is likely to

### Analysis

be an option in any such referendum, together with at least one option on leaving the EU.

Overall then, ongoing Brexit delays, amid a continuing political logjam in Westminster, increase the prospects of the UK remaining in the EU.

Sterling has taken the chaotic events of the past month in its stride, with the EUR-GBP rate largely confined to a narrow 85p-87p range since mid-February.

It could continue to mark time in the next couple of months, amid ongoing efforts to get the withdrawal agreement.

The upcoming elections in the UK do present some event risk for the currency. We only see sterling making gains when remaining in the EU becomes a growing probability, most likely through a new referendum.

On the other hand, the currency could start to edge lower as the new Brexit deadline approaches.

Even if the deal is ratified and the UK departs the EU, there are still likely to be choppy waters ahead for sterling as difficult talks will follow on the future relationship between the UK and EU.

Meanwhile, a hard Brexit could still arise. The currency could fall by 10% to 15% in such circumstances.

■ Oliver Mangan is chief economist at AIB

## Brain wave



Brain injury survivor Niamh Cahill and senior occupational therapist Sinead Stack launching the Step Ahead initiative in Cork and Dublin which will help young people return to work or education after a brain injury. Co-funded by the Government and the European Social Fund, the vocational assessment programme is for people aged 18-29 years who have sustained a brain injury. See [www.aibireland.ie/stepahead](http://www.aibireland.ie/stepahead).

Picture: Mark Steadman

# VW looks to China as trouble brews at home

Christoph Rauwald

A year into his tenure, Volkswagen chief executive Herbert Diess is entering critical months as he seeks to expand the carmaker's sprawling Chinese operations while containing tensions at home in Germany.

The Chinese market is leading a global shift toward electric vehicles and will take on a bigger role for the German car maker both a production hub and a research-and-development center, Mr Diess told reporters at a presentation near Shanghai over the weekend.

"China emerged as a powerhouse of the automotive industry," Mr Diess said.

"As a brand, we want to be number one in terms of electric mobility, in China and beyond."

Mr Diess indicated last month that VW is considering increasing local joint-venture stakes to expand in the world's largest automotive market, part of a strategy review due to be completed by early next year.

At the same time, he's planning checks in Germany to free up more cash to invest in the company's ambitious technology shift.

His chances of boosting VW's equity ties in China have risen as authorities ease restrictions for foreign manufacturers and a slowing market adds to pressure on local peers.

VW intends to do more with "all three joint ventures," Mr Diess said. After Chinese car sales posted



Herbert Diess: China now a powerhouse in the automotive industry.

their first annual decline in decades last year, VW said that demand in the market is picking up.

VW brand global sales chief Jürgen Stackmann told reporters a reduction in value-added tax is helping sales, and he expects car-sales in China to be roughly even with 2018 despite a decline in the first quarter.

Volkswagen shares were little changed in the latest session, and have fallen by 6.5% in the past year.

"The Chinese auto market is in a critical transformation phase as the period of strong growth over more than two decades nears its end," said Stefan Bratzel, a researcher at the Center of Automotive Management in Germany.

"The transforming changes will

come with a consolidation of the domestic industry in China," he said.

VW has ties with SAIC Motor and FAW, two of China's largest manufacturers, after being one of the first foreign automakers to arrive in China more than three decades ago.

Mr Diess recently praised the two joint ventures as group leaders in productivity, quality and profitability.

As part of the strategy review, VW is exploring options to acquire a stake in its third partner, Anhui Jiahuan Automobile Group, which is much smaller than SAIC or FAW.

Any broader initiative would still have to involve those two as well.

"We have a lot to offer — and together we can be the strongest alliance in the industry," Mr Diess told the company's staff newspaper in March. "This is a great opportunity for us and we need to take advantage of it."

China accounts for 40% of the VW group's global deliveries and a large chunk of profit.

The two main joint ventures generated another year of double-digit pretax profit margins in 2018 despite the market's decline, according to a presentation published on the corporate website. The robust Chinese profits contrast with squeezed returns at home in Europe, where regulators embarked on a fresh round of tighter emissions limits.

Volkswagen is pushing for deeper cuts in its German workforce to meet regional targets and free up

more funds for future technologies.

VW's woes in Europe, highlighted by costly struggles to adopt stricter emission tests and delayed vehicle projects like the next-generation Golf hatchback, have reignited tension with powerful German trade unions.

Meanwhile, rival Mercedes-Benz unveiled in Singapore a concept sport utility vehicle with rugged design and space for as many as seven passengers to expand its in-demand line-up of mid-sized and compact cars.

We asked ourselves whether there is still space between the GLA and GLC," sales chief Britta Seeger said at the Shanghai show.

"The concept GLB is the answer to this question."

China has been one of the few bright spots for the Mercedes-Daimler so far this year. Deliveries in its largest sales region defied an overall market slump to edge up 2.6% through March, while sales in US and Europe fell.

Global trade woes and slowing growth are undermining demand for new cars at a time of record spending on electric cars and new digital services. China's importance for Daimler extends beyond selling cars.

Billionaire Li Shufu became the German manufacturer's biggest shareholder last year and recently agreed to form a joint venture to transform Daimler's ailing Smart mini-car nameplate into an all-electric brand based in China.

■ Bloomberg

## CEO 'not among' fraud accused

Volkswagen's chief executive Herbert Diess said he was not among the Volkswagen executives being probed for fraud and breach of fiduciary trust after German prosecutors sought to press criminal charges against his predecessor.

"I am not among the accused. I do not expect to be charged," Mr Diess said on the sidelines of a Volkswagen event at the Shanghai Auto Show.

Prosecutors in Braunschweig in Germany, said they were pressing criminal charges against former Volkswagen chief executive Martin Winterkorn for fraud, breach of trust and breaching competition laws for failing to prevent polluting diesel cars being put on sale.

Mr Diess is being probed in a separate investigation about market manipulation.

VW and Mr Diess declined to comment on the status of the other probe.

Mr Winterkorn was charged with serious fraud alongside four other managers for their role in the diesel-rigging scandal that rocked the carmaker and cost it about €28bn.

The former chief executive and other suspects are accused of equipping vehicles sold to customers in Europe and the US with a so-called defeat device. The 71-year-old former CEO is also charged with breach of trust

## Farming world

### Non-EU maize imports undermine Origin Green

IFA grain chairman Mark Browne said tillage farmers are furious about the continued feed of many animal feed merchants to use local barley.

He cited Eurostat figures, showing Ireland imported 157,000 tonnes of non-EU maize in January alone, with Canada, Ukraine, and Russia as the main sources.

"Many growers are left with stores full of barley, due to the importation of feed ingredients. It is unacceptable merchants would ship feed ingredients half-way around the world and not buy Irish grain, which is on their own doorstep."

"Farmers are incensed that these non-EU coun-

tries, which do not have equivalent standards to Irish grain in relation to sustainability, the environment, and GMOs, yet they have displaced native barley in livestock rations."

He said it is time to examine the specifics of Irish sustainability schemes, like Origin Green, which promote the importance of local, sustainable sourcing, reduce the carbon footprint, and serve local communities. He questioned if shunning Irish barley, in favour of importing maize, produced to lower environmental standards, over vast distances, was compatible with the sustainability principles of the programme.

## Spotlight on new antibiotic rules

Legislation due to prohibit the blanket use of antibiotics on dairy farms by 2022 is a priority issue for the newly rebranded Milk Quality Ireland.

"The transition to selective dry cow therapy will be an important issue," said Jerry Long, Milk Quality Ireland chairman. "This transition will require careful management including the need to scale up the level of milk recording across the national herd."

Previously known as the Irish Milk Quality Co-operative Society Ltd (IMQCS), Milk Quality Ireland Co-operative Society Ltd is a dairy farm infrastructure group whose representatives include ICOS, the dairy co-ops,



Milk Quality Ireland: Brian Aherne (Fullwood Pack), Jerry Cronin (Glambia Ireland), Seamus Goggin (milking machine technician), Franks Quigley and John Upton (Teagasc), Hugh Holland (Barryroe) and Pat Dillon (Teagasc). Front: Willie Ryan (Dairygold Co-op), Kevin McCabe (Lakeland Dairies), Eamonn Farrell, Jerry Long, and Sinead Farrell (ICOS), Edmond Harty (Dairymaster) and Tom Ryan (Teagasc).

Teagasc, milking machine manufacturers and milking machine technicians.

Mr Long. "In recent years, we have focused on areas of milk recording as well as providing training and certification of milking machine technicians."

"We will continue this important work with a renewed focus on helping the dairy industry and farmers to meet significant new demands in relation to milk quality. These new demands relate to the adoption of non-chlorine cleaning protocols for milking equipment and bulk milk tanks, which will require changes to existing practices at farm level in order to respond to market requirements."

Milk Quality Ireland was established in 1989 to improve quality standards.

"I'm extremely pleased to announce the unveiling of Milk Quality Ireland," said





COMPANY	CURRENCY	CLOSURE	CHANGE	COMPANY	CURRENCY	CLOSURE	CHANGE
1stInvestments	GBP	3,130.00	45.00	HP Inc	USD	20.05	-0.17
Abbott Labs	USD	77.67	-0.34	IBM	USD	143.53	-0.82
AbbVie Inc	USD	80.62	-0.16	KON PLC	USD	137.42	0.13
ACI Worldwide	USD	34.19	0.17	Intel Corp	USD	56.03	-0.39
Activision	USD	46.67	-0.61	J&J	USD	136.15	0.17
AIG	USD	45.87	-0.32	Johnson&Cos	USD	36.28	0.20
Allergan PLC	USD	143.21	-1.74	Lilly Glb A	USD	28.18	0.26
Alphabet Inc	USD	1,215.83	-2.04	Lundin Mining	CAD	7.37	0.54
Ampgen Inc	USD	190.02	-1.40	Medtronic PLC	USD	86.94	0.74
Analyst Dev	USD	112.98	-1.23	Merck	USD	78.68	-0.75
Apple Inc	USD	198.60	-0.27	Microsoft	USD	120.93	-0.12
BaxterS&S	USD	37.75	0.02	Novartis AG	CHF	0.66	0.06
Baxter Spb	USD	46.26	0.69	Oracle Corp	USD	51.40	0.09
CEVA Inc	USD	28.59	-0.19	Papago	USD	123.03	0.80
Coca-Cola	USD	46.87	0.13	Petrol Res	GBP	1.25	0.05
Catalpalm	USD	68.70	-0.08	Pfizer Inc	USD	41.83	0.12
Danone SA	EUR	69.98	0.58	Pyramit	USD	77.73	0.62
Elbay	EUR	38.35	0.17	Starbucks	USD	78.19	-0.46
Elcally	USD	124.06	1.00	State Street	USD	70.14	-0.09
Enviroment	SEK	90.21	-1.08	StellantisHoldings	GBP	21.80	2.80
Fanbook Inc	USD	178.21	-0.19	Styler Corp	USD	191.47	0.80
GE	EUR	891	-0.09	Trend Micro	JPY	5,540.00	50.00
GenWorlto	CAD	32.88	0.21	Trinity Bio	USD	2.93	-0.03
Greencore	GBP	215.40	0.40	UDG Holdings	GBP	64.00	0.00
HeinenKV	EUR	94.50	0.44	Vanguard Inc	USD	192.12	-0.96
Henkel&CoAG	EUR	81.35	0.15	Vodafone	GBP	142.50	1.69

Data Provided by

# Bloomberg





Irish Examiner  
irisexaminer.com



## Susan takes a bite out of Brexit

**FUTURE ILLUSTRATOR 2019**  
**OFFSETDUBLIN chemistry**  
**Irish Examiner**

Susan Sweeney from Ballyshannon has taken the top prize in the Future Illustrator competition at Offset for her cartoon on Brexit, entitled *Bulldog*. In a keenly contested category, her work caught the eye of judges from the *Irish Examiner* and the advertising agency Chemistry. Offset is a major international conference for the design and creative industries. Now in its 10th year, the three-day event in Dublin draws about 2,500 creative and design professionals and students. It is designed to celebrate creativity and to bring together the best in international and Irish creative talent in advertising, animation, film, fine art, graphic design, fashion, illustration, industrial design, photography, street art.

Robert Boyle, the creative director of Chemistry, said: "The *Irish Examiner* and Chemistry have a rich history of championing photographers and illustrators throughout our editorial, current affairs and sporting communications. We wanted to extend this partnership to Offset in order to encourage and foster fresh talent in the creative industry, by creating the inaugural Future Illustrator 2019. We put a call out for illustrators to tackle the subject of Brexit and the response and effort has been incredible, with over 40 submissions from all over the country and one from as far afield as South Korea. "All entries were judged by the *Irish Examiner*, Offset and Chemistry and the final three were awarded live last night at the creative conference itself which

are published here, for all to see. The finalists were chosen for their balance of a great idea expressed with great craft. It's a great way to get new illustrators work and talents seen by a wider audience of professionals across the world of publishing and advertising."

Given the success and interest we've had it surely won't be the last Future Illustrator programme. We'll be publishing a long list of this years entries in an online gallery in the coming days."

### 1st place

**'Bulldog' by Susan Sweeney**  
Susan studied French and History at NUI Maynooth, thinking that a career in teaching might be for her. Instead, she did a bit of travelling, did a PR course, and spent several years working in corporate PR and event management before deciding just one year ago that what she really wanted to do was art and design. Still in her first year at the renowned BCFE (Ballyfermot College of Further Education), she has lots of assignments to complete so was only intending to go to Offset

on Saturday and Sunday, as well as the after-party on Friday, in which case she'd have missed the announcement that she had won the competition.

### 2nd place

**'... cut here ...' by James Hayes**  
Originally from Co Kerry, James qualified as an architect and spent five years working as an architect in the UK. However, his heart has always been about making images and artwork, so James moved back to Tralee a year ago to try to make a go of a career as an illustrator and artist. He still keeps his hand in the world of architecture, doing projects for friends and family, both as an outlet for his creativity, and as a means of supporting his real passion.

### 3rd place

**'Waiting for Brexit' by Dominic Barnes**  
Dominic Barnes was born in Scotland but has lived in Dublin since he was 6. He studied physiology at college but it was only a chance visit to an art gallery with a friend that opened his eyes, and his brain, to creative pursuits, which he had never considered before. He is now in his first year doing Fine Art at BCFE and working as a freelance illustrator, photographer and graphic designer.



First place went to Susan Sweeney from Ballyshannon for her illustration entitled 'Bulldog'. Second was '...cut here...' by James Hayes from Kerry (second from the left) while third was 'Waiting for Brexit' by Dominic Barnes from Dublin

Clockwise from top left: 'Waiting for Brexit' by Dominic Barnes; '...cut here...' by James Hayes; 'Bulldog' by Susan Sweeney



Irish Examiner  
irisexaminer.com



## SOCIAL &amp; PERSONAL

4★  
**hotelwestport**  
leisure - spa - conference  
&  
Westport House

**\*\*NEW\*\***  
**RETIREMENT PLANNING WEEKEND**  
2BB1D + professional advice  
17th & 18th May  
€299pps  
€339 single  
  
**GOLF WEEK**  
5 Nights Dinner B&B  
+ 3 Days of Golf  
26th - 31st May  
€455pps

**EXTRAVAGANZA WEEK**  
5 Nights DBB + Programme  
Day & Night  
9th - 14th June  
€385pp  
NO Single Supplement

**SPIRIT & SOUL OF MAYO**  
Hosted by James Kilbane  
5 Nights DBB + Programme  
16th - 21st June  
€400pp  
NO Single Supplement  
  
Call: 098 25122  
All Offers Subject to Availability  
www.hotelwestport.ie

**Bellbridge House Hotel**  
Spanish Point, Co. Clare  
Beach Location, Wild Atlantic Way  
Fantastic Easter Offers by the Sea

2BB1D @ €145pps  
2BB2D @ €165pps  
3BB1D @ €200pps  
3BB2D @ €225pps  
T: 065-7084038  
E: info@bellbridge-hotelclare.com  
www.bellbridge-hotelclare.com

**Social & Personal Advertising**  
CONTACT OUR SOCIAL & PERSONAL TEAM  
T: 021 480 22 36  
E: social.personal@examiner.ie  
Irish Examiner

**DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL**  
B&B  
FAMILY & SPA

**Easter Weekend****Last Minute Offers**

Enjoy a family break with action packed kids club programmes

Skellig Crèche  
Fungi Kids Club  
Teen Room  
Leisure Club  
Spa

Book Now:  
066 915 0200  
www.dingleskellig.com

**THE WILDER**

- Townhouse -

**SUMMER IN DUBLIN**

Treat yourself to a summer city-break at the stunning new Townhouse that has everyone talking.

Victorian elegance perfectly blended with modern style, right in the heart of fashionable Dublin 2  
Just a 5 minutes stroll to Stephen's Green.

22 Adelaide Rd, Dublin 2  
Tel 01 9696598  
www.thewilder.ie  
Anything But Ordinary

**Escape to Killarney**

Town Centre  
4\* Hotels  
Killarney Plaza  
Killarney Avenue  
Killarney Towers

2BB + 1D  
from  
**€135 pps**

Vouchers available for all occasions

Call Today  
064 66 2 1111  
www.odrhotels.com

Spring Breaks at  
**Holiday Inn**  
Killarney

**Easter Weekend**

from €129  
Room Only

**Easter Midterm**  
from €119  
Room Only

2 Adults & 2 Kids  
Children Stay & Eat Free (1/c apply)

**Rally of the Lakes**  
from €119  
Room only

**May Madness Rooms**  
from €75

**May Midweek Special**  
2BB1D  
Sun - Thurs  
from €99 pps

BOOK DIRECT FOR BEST RATES

Gym & Swimming Pool  
Free parking  
Free wifi  
NEWLY RENOVATED BEDROOMS

Lo-Call us at:  
1850 355 000  
www.holidayinnkillarney.com  
info@holidayinnkillarney.com

**Schull Harbour Hotel**

Hotel, Leisure Centre & Apartments

Spring into Summer with a MIDWEEK break on the Wild Atlantic Way

2 Night B&B  
2 Course Dinner for 2  
for ONLY €199

Need a longer break? Extend your stay for just €35pps per night (Excludes Saturdays)

Subject to Availability  
Stay before May 31st 2019  
T&C's apply  
Call 028 28801  
www.schullharbourhotel.ie

**Social & Personal Advertising**

CONTACT OUR SOCIAL & PERSONAL TEAM  
T: 021 480 22 36  
E: social.personal@examiner.ie  
Irish Examiner

**Spring Specials**

**Midweek Stays**

€129.00  
pps 2BB1D

**Easter Family Offer**

Kids Stay FREE  
Midweek  
€278.00  
2BB1 D

Terms & Conditions Apply

Book Now on  
064 6675100  
Or online at  
www.sneemhotel.com

**The Killarney Court Hotel**

www.killarneycourthotel.com

**Midweek in May Rooms**  
from €69  
Room Only

not valid 12th, 13th & 14th May  
Subject to availability  
T&C Apply

Call 064-6637070  
sales@rhynhotels.com

**CLAYTON HOTEL**  
CORK CITY

Lapps Quay, Cork

Book your Summer BBQ Feast  
Overlooking the Lee!

From €24 per person

Tel: 021-4224942  
www.claytonhotels.com

**Irish Examiner ePaper**

Read the full Irish Examiner and every supplement just as they are printed... Anytime, Anywhere.

Enjoy unlimited access to the best reporting, comment and analysis.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**

**irishexaminer.com/epaper**

Available on

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play | Available on amazon

**Irish Examiner READERS' PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2019**

€1,500 IN PRIZES TO BE WON

OVERALL WINNER 2018  
Two-year-old Lily taking over the mass at St. Senan's Church in Knockmore, Co. Clare  
Picture: Alice Glynn, Limerick

**Relive great sporting moments from the past**

"A great day for Irish Rugby... a great day for all 15 Munster men who played so magnificently"

**Munster 12 All Blacks 0**  
Thomond Park, October 31, 1978

- From an Irish Examiner article published in 1978.



**Irish Examiner**  
irishexaminer.com/archive

**DUBLIN THEATRE GUIDE**

To advertise in the Dublin Theatre Guide Telephone 087 222 9508 or email neil@tigeradvertising.ie

**ABBEY THEATRE**  
Tel: (01) 87 87 222  
On the Peacock Stage  
19th Apr - 20th April

**Bitter Like A Lemon and the Abbey Theatre**  
Theatre in association with Dublin Port Company present  
**IN OUR VEINS**

**BEGINNING**  
by David Eldridge

**A new play by Lee Coffey - In Our Veins**  
follows their family through 100 years of Dublin  
Tickets €13 - €25 / Conc. €13 - €22  
www.abbytheatre.ie

**GATE THEATRE**  
Tel: (01) 874 4045

**Mon-Sat: 8pm  
Sat Mat: 2.30pm**

**AND THIS IS MY FRIEND MR LAUREL**  
Written by Gail Louv & Jeffery Holland

**Cast includes: Marty Rea and Eileen Walsh**  
Opening Night: Wednesday 3rd April  
Tickets from €15 www.gatetheatre.ie

**VIKING THEATRE @ the sheds**  
Tel: 087 1129970

**Mon-Sat: 8pm  
Apr 1st - Apr 13th**

To advertise in the Social & Personal Section  
Tel: 021-4802236 Email: social.personal@examiner.ie

**Irish Examiner**  
irishexaminer.com





WIZARD OF ID



Double Crossword

No. 17,475

Jimmy Osmond,  
singer, 56

April 16

Feast day of St Bernadette, St Magnus, St Paternus of Avranches, St Enragas, St Fructuosus, St Tullius of Astorga, St Drogo, St Joseph Benedict Labre, and St Optatus and the Martyrs of Saragossa.  
1746: The army of Charles Stuart, the Young Pretender Bonnie Prince Charlie, was routed by Cumberland at the Battle of Culloden.  
1850: Death of Marie Tussaud, Swiss-born modeler who established the world-famous waxworks near Baker Street, London, in 1835.  
1889: Charlie Chaplin (later Sir Charles), English comedian, was born in London.  
1912: American Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel.  
1964: Twelve members of the Great Train Robbery gang were sentenced to a total of 307 years in jail.  
1972: The US spacecraft Apollo 16 was launched.  
1977: The Bank of England was forced to publish an open letter to the Chancellor for the first time after a shock surge in inflation to above 3%.

Solutions to previous puzzle:

Quick Crossword answers also fit the large grid

CRYPTIC

Across: 6 Looking; 7 Short; 9 Set; 10 Repairing; 12 Trying a case; 15 Private eyes; 17 Morse code; 19 Saw; 21 Tenon; 22 Glasses; Down: 1 Poles; 2 Sky; 3 Onyx; 4 Character; 5 Dryness; 8 Mangle; 11 Prevision; 13 Infact; 14 Trolet; 16 Taper; 18 Date; 20 Ash.  
QUICK Across: 6 Visitor; 7 Marry; 9 Gay; 10 Narrative; 12 Appropriate; 15 Acknowledge; 17 Break up; 18 Close; 22 Mariner; Down: 1 Final; 2 Lid; 3 Comar; 4 Partridge; 5 Events; 6 Triple; 11 Spineless; 13 Reward; 14 Scrawls; 16 Adder; 18 Neat; 20 Hit.

QUICK CLUES

Across: 1 Conductive (10) 7 Weak (5) 8 Break up (7) 10 Fully (8) 11 Prejudice (4) 13 Angry (6) 15 Peril (6) 17 Declare (4) 18 Dig (6) 21 Building (7) 22 Guesseome (fiend) (5) 23 Endowment (10) Down: 1 Festival (5) 2 Intrepid (8) 3 Excessively (6) 4 Additionally (4) 5 Chief (7) 6 Unmanly (10) 8 Lawless (10) 12 Pompous address (8) 14 Feeling (7) 16 Highly skilled (6) 19 Approximately (5) 20 Sage (4)

Bridge Notes

North-South vulnerable, South deals

NORTH  
♠ 10 3  
♥ Q J 9 3  
♦ A K  
♣ J 8 3 2  
SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 9 7 4  
♥ A 2  
♦ A 10 9 7  
♣ K

South won the opening trump lead in hand with the seven. He then led a diamond to the king, a diamond back to his ace, and ruffed a diamond.

Had the queen and jack of diamonds not fallen, he would have been forced to take the heart finesse at this point.

They did fail, however, so he considered other options. Why had West led a trump rather than a heart?

There had been no heart cue bid in the auction. He might have led a heart with no honor in the suit.

South decided that West probably held the king of hearts so he ran all of his trumps.

West discarded the 10 of clubs when South exited with the king of clubs to West, who was forced to lead away from his king of hearts.

Nice card reading!

Satellite and Cable Extra

Sky One

6.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (S)  
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (S)  
7.30 Animal House (S)  
8.00 Monkey Life (S)  
8.30 Monkey Life (S)  
9.00 Monkeys and Apes: Wild (S)  
9.30 Beano! (S)  
9.30 Play Your Part Right (S)  
9.30 Big Cat Wild Files (S)  
10.00 The Simpsons (S)  
10.30 Modern Family (S)  
11.00 Modern Family (S)  
11.30 NCIS: Los Angeles (S)  
12.00 Hawaii Five-0 (S)  
12.30 Hawaii Five-0 (S)  
13.00 Modern Family (S)  
13.30 The Simpsons (S)  
14.00 The Simpsons (S)  
14.30 Futurama (S) - fresh-eating alien targets the crew. (S)  
15.00 Futurama (S) - first episode of the sci-fi animation series. (S)  
16.30 The Simpsons Surveillance cameras are installed in Springfield. (S)  
17.00 The Simpsons More stars up mortal strife in Springfield. (S)  
17.30 The Simpsons A new neighbour moves in. (S)  
18.00 Arrow: Mia and William venture into the Glades on a mission. (S)  
19.00 SEAL Team Jason tries to find a way to pay for Emma's college education. (S)  
10.00 A League of Their Own With Geni Korman, John Terry and Jack Widdicombe. (S)  
11.00 Curfew An act of sabotage causes all hell to break loose. (S)  
12.00 Road Wars (S)  
13.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow (S)  
14.00 Road Wars (S)  
15.00 Hawaii Five-0 (S)  
16.00 Road Wars (S)  
17.00 StarGate S-G1 (S)

Sky Cinema Drama

6.00 The Boy Downstairs (2017) With Zosia Mamet. (S)  
7.35 Far and Away (1992) With Jim Caviezel. (S)  
10.00 Never Steady, Never Still (2017) With Shirley Henderson. (S)  
12.00 Call Me by Your Name (2017) See 8.00pm. (S)  
2.15 Corgie Ugly (2000) With Peter Onorati. (S)  
4.05 Save the Last Dance (2000) With Julia Stiles. (S)  
6.00 Professor Marmont and the Wonder Women (2017) The story of psychologist William Moulton Marston, and his creation of Wonder Woman. Biopic, starring Luke Evans, Jessica Hahn and Rebecca Hall. (S)  
8.00 Call Me by Your Name (2017) A 17-year-old begins a relationship with his father's research assistant in Italy. Romantic drama, starring Armie Hammer and Timothee Chalamet. (S)  
10.15 Ray (2004) Biopic of blind singer and musician Ray Charles, exploring his battle against racial bigotry, drug addiction and personal demons. With Jamie Foxx. (S)  
12.50 Shock and Awe (2017) Journalists covering the planned invasion of Iraq in 2003 are very of the claim that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. Drama, starring Woody Harralson. (S)  
2.30 Pain (2017) A young married couple tries their love to the test when they discover that their new neighbours are swingers. Comedy-drama, starring Sugar Lyn Beard. (S)  
4.15 Steel Magnolias (1989) The close friendship between six women from different generations helps them to survive life's changing fortunes. Drama, starring Sally Field. (S)

Sky Cinema Family

6.20 The Smurfs 2 (2013) See 2.45pm. (S)  
8.10 Hotel Transylvania 3: A Monster Vacation (2018) See 5.15pm. (S)  
9.55 Surf's Up (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. (S)  
11.30 Mars Needs Moms (2011) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Seth Green. (S)  
1.05 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) Part-animated, with the voice of 8.00pm. (S)  
2.45 The Smurfs 2 (2013) Animated sci-fi sequel, starring Hank Azaria. (S)  
4.35 Hop (2011) Part-animated comedy, starring James Marsden. (S)  
6.15 Hotel Transylvania 3: A Monster Vacation (2018) Animated, with the voice of Adam Sandler. (S)  
8.00 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) Set the slice's friends search for him when he is taken to an underground world inhabited by dinosaurs. Animated sequel, featuring the voice of John Leguizamo. (S)  
9.45 Woody Woodpecker (2017) Live action and animated adventure, starring Timothy Dalton. (S)  
11.20 Monster House (2006) Animated comedy horror, with the voice of Michael Madsen. (S)  
1.00 The Simpsons (2017) Animated adventure, with the voice of Matt Fretwell. (S)  
2.45 Bot (2008) The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles unite to battle an evil tycoon's horde of monsters. Animated adventure, with the voice of Will Ferrell. (S)

Sky Cinema Action

6.00 Beowulf (2007) With Ray Winstone. (S)  
10.00 The Bourne Supremacy (2004) With Matt Damon. (S)  
12.00 Transporter 2 (2005) See 5.00pm. (S)  
1.40 Salt (2010) With Angelina Jolie. (S)  
3.25 Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017) With Mark Hamill. (S)  
6.00 Shanghai Noon (2005) Michael Bay's action thriller, featuring Owen Wilson and Jackie Chan. (S)  
8.00 Transporter 2 (2005) A politician's chauffeur sets out to rescue his employer's kidnapped son from Russian criminals. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassman and Andrea Valtieri. (S)  
9.30 Bad Boys (1995) Two detectives are forced to stop a heroin consignment stolen by a drug kingpin. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. (S)  
11.30 Bad Boys II (2003) Two mismatched undercover cops set out to stop a drug lord flooding the market with drugs. Comedy thriller sequel, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. (S)  
2.00 20012 (2009) As the human race faces extinction in a global cataclysm, a writer tries to get his family to the safe zone. Disaster movie, starring John Cusack and Meg Ryan. (S)  
4.40 TMNT (2007) The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles unite to battle an evil tycoon's horde of monsters. Animated adventure, with the voice of Sarah Michelle Gellar. (S)

GOLD

7.20 The Piglet Files (S) 8.15 Goodnight, Sweetheart (S) 9.35 Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 12.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 1.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 2.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 3.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 4.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 5.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 6.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 7.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 8.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 9.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 10.35 The Last of the Summer Wine (S) 11.



**Channel 4**

**6.25 CHEERS (S) 6.55**  
 Cheers (S) **7.20** Cheers  
 (S) **7.45** Frasier (S) **8.10**  
 Frasier (S) **8.40** Frasier  
 (S) **9.10** Everybody  
 Loves Raymond (S) **9.40**  
 Everybody Loves  
 Raymond (S) **10.10**  
 Ramsay's Kitchen  
 Nightmares USA (S)  
**11.05** Car SOS (S) **12.00**  
 Channel 4 News  
 Summary (S) **12.05**  
 Come Dine with Me (S)  
**1.05** Escape to the  
 Chateau: DIY (S)

**2.10 COUNTDOWN (S)**

**3.00 A PLACE IN THE SUN**  
 (S)

**4.00 A NEW LIFE IN THE SUN (S)**

**5.00 FOUR IN A BED (S)**

**5.30 EXTREME CAKE MAKERS (S)**

**6.00 THE SIMPSONS**

Homer's mother dies, leaving him upset over never saying how much he loved her. Determined to make amends, he sets out to fulfill her final wishes. With the voice of Glenn Close. (S)

**6.30 HOLLYOAKS** Darren worries that the baby may not be his biological son, and decides to purchase a DNA kit.

**7.00 NEWS** (S)  
**8.00 FOOD UNWRAPPED** In a special extended episode, Jimmy Doherty dons a beer jacket in Iceland to find out if booze can keep a person warm, and discovers something unexpected in fish fingers. (S)  
**9.00 THE GREAT BRITISH SCHOOL SWAP** New series. A predominantly white school and a mainly Asian school

swap pupils in an experiment to see what happens when children from very different areas mix for the first time. (S)

**10.00 FIRST DATES** New series. Return of the restaurant-based dating show, hosted by Fred Sirieix. Participants include energetic 32-year-old owl sanctuary volunteer Krystal. (S)

**11.05 RAMSAY'S 24 HOURS TO HELL AND BACK** New series. Gordon Ramsay visits the Trolley Stop Café, a classic Cajun-inspired restaurant

located in the heart of New Orleans, Louisiana, where things have gone off the rails. (S)

**12.00 CELEBRITY SAS: WHO DARES WINS FOR STAND UP TO CANCER** (S) **12.55** Grand Designs: The Street (S) **1.50** The Restoration Man (S) **2.45** Supersoppers (S) **3.15** French Collection (S) **4.10** All Star Driving School (S)



• Ole Gunnar Solskjær, Live UEFA Champions League, RTE 2, 7pm

**7.00 CYCLING: TOUR OF TURKEY** Action from the opening stage of the race.

**8.30 GOLF: MASTERS** Action from the Major at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia.

**9.30 CYCLING: AMSTEL GOLD RACE** Action from the 2018 race in the Netherlands.

**10.30 CYCLING: TOUR OF TURKEY** Action from the opening stage of the

**11.30 ATHLETICS: DIAMOND LEAGUE** A review of the 2018 season.  
**12.40 WRESTLING**  
**1.10 EUROSPORT NEWS**  
**1.15 CLOSE**

**12.57** *Weather* **1.00** The World at One.  
**1.30** *The Aardies* **2.15** *Drama* **Longing**  
**2.30** *Great Lives* **5.00** *P.M.* **5.54** *Weather* **5.57**  
**6.00** *6 o'Clock News* **6.30** *My Teenage Diary* **7.00**  
**7.15** *Front Row* **7.45** *The Citadel* **8.00** *The*  
**8.40** *10 in Touch* **9.00** *The Petch* **9.30** *The Life*  
**10.00** *The World Tonight* **10.45** *Adrian Mole and*  
**11.00** *Mass Destruction* **11.10** *Fred at the Stand-*  
**12.00** *Weather* **12.30** *Book of the Week*  
**1.00** *Biography* **12.48** *Weather* **1.00** As BBC  
**2.00**  
**5.00** *Morning Reports* **5.15** *Wake Up*  
**5.45** *Breakfast* **9.00** *Your Call* **10.00** *The*  
**10.30** *Show* **11.00** *Night Antispyke* **11.00** *5 Live*  
**11.30** *Sport* **8.00** *Live* *Sport* **Champions**  
**2018-19** *Barcelona v Manchester United*  
**10.30** *Phil Williams* *Live news and sport.*  
**4PM** **6.00** *P.J. and Jim* **10.00** *Nikki Hayes*  
**11.00** *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*  
**11.00** *Ant and Dec's Family Time* **9.00** *Ants Nikk*  
**9.00** *10.00* *Non-stop Club Classics*

1

RIGHT THAT NEVER QUILTS

**Irish Examiner**

 [Irishexaminer.com](http://Irishexaminer.com)



Situations Vacant	Public Notices	Public Notices	In Memoriam	Death Notices	Death Notices	Death Notices
<p><b>CROSSEROLLOH</b> mushroom loam in Canan is looking for 5 people with 2 or more year's experience picking mushrooms. Salary circa €22,000 per annum. Working hours minimum 39. Days start and finish time will vary in accordance with roster. Applicants email cly (O) and contact details in <a href="mailto:crosserolloh@mushrooms@gmail.com">crosserolloh@mushrooms@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>EXPERIENCED</b> Truck/Tray fitted. Min 2 years exp and full drivers licence. Proyre. Bundag Ltd. B&amp;K. Chesham. Call 0800 000 000. Email: <a href="mailto:info@allryes.ie">info@allryes.ie</a></p> <p><b>OK TOL</b> tool Ltd. needs a Mechanical Engineer in Toge, Cork, Ireland. 5+ years experience in developing and</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>Event Licence Application</b></p> <p>Safe Events on behalf of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Executive Committee gives notice of the intent to apply to Louth County Council for the forthcoming two-week period for a Licence for an outdoor event, comprising of public entertainment in accordance with Part X08 of Planning and Development Act 2000-2015.</p> <p>The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann event will comprise of an eight-day Irish traditional music and teaching event to be held in various venues in Drogheda Town, Co. Louth, from Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th August 6-9pm. It is anticipated that the event will attract approximately 500,000 people over the seven days.</p> <p>The licence application may be inspected at, Civic Offices Fair Street Drogheda, Town Hall, Dundalk and County Hall, Dundalk, during office hours for a period of three weeks from the date of receipt of the application. Submissions or observations may be made in writing to Louth County Council, Planning Department, within the same period.</p>	<p><b>Guineo</b></p> <p>43TH ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>In loving memory of JOHN GUINEE, late of Blackrock Park, Malloy, who died on 16th April 1971.</p> <p>Your memory is as dear today,</p> <p>As in the hour you passed away,</p> <p>(Always loved and never forgotten by his sons Michael and Gerard, daughter Brid and their families).</p>	<p><b>CARROLL</b> (Newmarket): On 19th May 2019, peacefully, at home, Robert and JERILIAH, Murphy's place and formerly of Durtigue, brother of the late Sean. Deeply mourned by his brother Denis, sister-in-law Maureen, nieces Joanne and Sandra, granddaughters, grand-nephews all in America, relatives and friends. May be in peace. Reposing at O'Reilly's Funeral Home Newmarket on today (Tuesday) from 5pm to 6.30pm. A Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Church, Requiem Mass on tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12 noon. Funeral afterwards to Glenties Cemetery.</p>	<p><b>HURLEY</b> PATRICK (Columban Fathers) (date of kilbarrow, Ballymolee, Drogheda and Dalgan Park, Navan): On 15, 2019, peacefully, in the loving care of staff of St. Columban's Retirement Home, Navan, predeceased by his parents Michael and Margaret, son of Patrick (Columban Sisters), Noreen, brothers Brendan, Michael, Fr. Damien SSC and Gerard SSC, York, Ireland. Regretted by his sister Mary, brothers Gion, Gerard, Barry, and nephews Michael, sister-in-law Bernie, nieces, nephews, extended family, Columban family and friends. Reposing at St. Columban's Dalgan Park, Navan. Evening prayer today (Tuesday), April 16, 11.30 o'clock. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Wednesday), April 17, at 11.00 o'clock by burial in the Community cemetery. <i>An dEas Dú go raibé</i></p>	<p><b>O'SULLIVAN</b> (Randall and Barry): On April 15, 2019, peacefully, at home, at Marymount Hospice, DENIS, beloved son of the late John Joe and Christine, late of North Main Street, dear Father of Sean and Tara, and brother of Rosemarie and Michael. (Brevé) and Lisa. Sadly missed by his loving children and their mother Gail, sisters, Mary and Patricia, and brother Michael, Paddy, sister, Helen, aunt Judy, nieces, nephews, extended family, Brendan and John, relatives and friends. Reception on this (Tuesday) evening at 8pm at St. Columban's Church, Navan. Sean will be lying in repose until 8pm approx. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12 noon. Funeral afterwards to the adjoining cemetery. <i>May he rest in peace.</i> Gabriel and O'Donovan's</p>	

**Planning Notices**

**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL:**  
We, Add Stores (Ireland) Limited intend to apply for planning permission for development of this site, the existing Add Store, Toughall, Co. Cork. The application site is c. 0.56 ha, located on New River Road, between Green's Quay and Lower Browne Street. Permission is sought to amend the opening hours of the site, as permitted under Cork County Council Planning Register Ref. 01/04/00000000 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL 04.24/0504). Specifically Condition 5 of the An Bord Pleanála Order which restricted the opening hours to 09:00 hours to 20:00 hours on Monday to Saturday and 10:00 hours to 19:00 hours on Sunday and public/bank holidays. It is proposed to amend the permitted opening hours to 09:00 hours to 22:00 hours on Monday to Friday and 09:00 hours to 21:00 hours on Saturday. Sunday and public/bank holidays. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased, at the office exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the office of Cork County Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €100.00, commencing on the beginning of the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**Healy**  
**THIRD ANNIVERSARY**  
In loving memory of FRANK, late of Greenfield Road, Kauterik.  
A loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather too  
Each one of us thought of the world you  
For us you always did your best  
God grant your soul eternal rest  
(Always remembered by his loving wife Anne and family).

**Andrew Twoght**  
**TENTH ANNIVERSARY**  
In memory of a loving son, brother and friend, **ANDREW**, late of Castle-wale, Waterfall, near Cork.  
No longer in our lives to share.  
But in our hearts you're always there.  
(Always remembered by your Mum and Dad, brother Philip and sister Rebecca).

*"You'll never walk alone"*

[illegible]

**Relive great sporting moments from the past**

[illegible]

“A great day for Irish Rugby...  
a great day for all 15 Munster men  
who played so magnificently”

**Munster 12 All Blacks 0**  
Thomond Park, October 31, 1978

- From an Irish Examiner article published in 1978.

**Irish Examiner**  
 [irishexaminer.com/archive](http://irishexaminer.com/archive)


100%

**Legal and Public Affairs**  
Contact: Tele Sales Tel. 02 762 2000  
**Irish Examiner**

## Notice to Advertisers/Readers

It is a condition of acceptance of advertisement orders that Irish Examiner Limited ("IEL") does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement on any specified date or at all. IEL does not accept liability for any loss or damage caused by the publication of any advertisement, whether by virtue of an inaccuracy, error or otherwise and whether suffered by the advertiser, a reader or any other person.

In the event of the publication of an advertisement, or a series of advertisements, containing an inaccuracy or error caused by IEL, its servants or agents, the limited liability of IEL shall extend only to the printing of one corrected insertion. No reprinting shall occur where the error is of a minor or typographical nature only. IEL reserve the right to cancel, at any time, an advertisement or a series of advertisements planned for publication and, in such circumstances, IEL shall only repay to the advertiser such portion of monies as is attributable to the unpublished advertisements and nothing further.

**Irish Examiner**  
 [irishexaminer.com](http://irishexaminer.com)

## To Advertisers in the Public Notices Section

4802180 Fax. 021-4271017  
-mail: [notice@examiner.ie](mailto:notice@examiner.ie)



# Annual carbon tax hikes on cards from 2020

■ A third of electricity demand to come from data centres, big users

**Juno McEnroe**  
Political Correspondent

Carbon tax hikes every year will be considered after an energy report warned that a third of all electricity demand here in future is set to come from data centres and large energy users.

Energy Minister Richard Bruton said he is "open" to considering annual hikes in carbon taxes and confirmed upward changes to the levy will be considered for the 2020 budget.

He said it was a matter for the minister for finance but that it was a "trajectory" that he and the Taoiseach had said should be put in place. "That won't happen this year but that it will be one of the issues considered in the 2020 Budget," he said.

Mr Bruton was speaking as a review of the country's energy needs by the International Energy Agency (IEA) called for annual increases in carbon taxes. It called for an "automated upward adjustment" of the tax "when preset sectoral emission targets are not met". Mr Bruton said he was "open" to considering this proposal.

The IEA also proposed that carbon taxes differ for sectors. However, Mr Bruton does not favour this approach.

"It is clear a price increase on carbon should impact on all sectors where carbon is used as an energy source," he said. "And that should be uniform."

The IEA said Ireland needs to develop a roadmap for decarbonising the residential heating sector, as 90% of homes still rely on fossil fuels. More government-driven policy changes should support switching fuels, the IEA said, particularly for the rental sector.

Ireland would be "miles off" reaching a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions targets by 2020, said IEA deputy executive director Paul

Simons. It would also be a "challenge" to cut emissions by 30% by 2030, he said.

While gas supplied half of all Irish electricity, more security of that supply was needed, the report said. Particularly if Ireland continues to plan to phase out electricity supply from coal by 2025 and from peat by 2030.

The IEA report says that electricity demand from large data centres and other large energy users will make up almost a third of electricity used by 2027.

Both Green Party leader Eamon Ryan and Friends of the Earth criticised IEA recommendations to prioritise gas infrastructure and security in future years.

While noting that around a quarter of the country's energy needs currently come from wind power, the IEA said this will rise in the coming years.

The IEA also noted that, with a rising population and therefore increasing energy demands in the coming years, we would need to meet future needs increasingly through low-carbon and energy-efficient solutions.

"Building on this success, we advise the Government to urgently implement additional measures and monitor their progress to get the country back on track to meet its long-term climate targets," Mr Simons added. Ireland became a founding member of the IEA when it was set up in 1974. The IEA is an agency of the OECD.

Meanwhile, People Before Profit launched a minority report on the Oireachtas Climate Action review, opposing carbon charges on households. Brid Smith said there should be a carbon tax on the profits of fossil fuel companies, food production companies and industries that release large CO2 emissions and that her party opposed a carbon tax on ordinary people who have "no alternative to the use of carbon".



## Surf's pups

Con O'Shea with his two bulldog pups, Buddy and Honey, playing in the foam that was created by heavy seas during a storm at Myrtleville Beach, Co Cork.

Picture: David Creedon/Anzenberger

# Cancer drugs for 'new clinical indications' covered by VHI

**Evelyn Ring**

Cancer drugs for "several new clinical indications" are now being covered by the VHI, the private health insurer has confirmed.

The drugs are currently available to public patients, but not for all the clinical indications listed by the private health insurance company.

The VHI recently wrote to consultants about the drugs, pointing out that the clinical indications listed are in line with international best practice and subject to prior approval.

"VHI is committed to ensuring that our members can avail of new and proven, innovative treatments in a timely manner," said VHI in a statement.

However, Janice Walshe, a consultant oncologist, said it is "very frustrating" that she cannot provide the same level of care to both public and private patients. Speaking on RTE radio, Dr Walshe said the only beneficiaries of the VHI programme

would be patients in private hospitals — it will not be available to VHI patients undergoing cancer treatment in a public hospital.

The clinical director of the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics, Michael Barry, said the drugs given the go-ahead by the VHI are currently going through the approval process.

He added that funding the drugs offered by the VHI, at the current price, would cost the HSE €100m over five years.

Prof Barry said making some cancer drugs available to some private patients raises an "equity issue". There is a system in place and, whatever people feel about it, it does ensure equity, he said.

He said the centre concluded its assessment of the breast cancer drug Perjeta in January.

"We concluded that, yes, there was value in the drug, but we felt that the price was too high, at about €61,000 per patient per year," he said.

They suggested to the HSE that negoti-

ations would be required and those negotiations are continuing.

The HSE said it has already approved 23 new drugs for reimbursement, to date this year, including a number of new cancer drugs, and has more applications scheduled for consideration during the year.

"There is a very clear process for assessing applications for the public reimbursement of medicines, and this is being followed in respect of the drugs and the conditions now being referred to," the health authority stated.

"The usual pattern, up to now, is for the health insurers to follow the public service reimbursement process."

"One insurer appears now to have decided to proceed in advance of the other insurers, including the State, in relation to these particular conditions."

Laya Healthcare said achieving the best patient outcome for their members is at the heart of their decisions on covering cancer treatments and services.



The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics said breast cancer drug Perjeta was too expensive at about €61,000 per patient per year.

**AbbeyMobility**  
Access solutions for Independent Living

**CORK'S MOST RELIABLE PROVIDER OF STAIRLIFTS**

**What kind of Stairlift do you need?**

*Call us now & avail of a local authority grant*

- New & Second Hand Stairlifts & Wheelchair Lifts
- 24/7 365 Emergency Breakdown Service
- All makes & models serviced & repaired
- Unbeatable on Price & Quality
- Warranties on All Products

Office 201, Acorn Business Park, Blackrock, CORK  
T: 021-4614221 M: 086-8343533  
Emergency Number: 086-0598804  
E: tim@abbeymobility.com

## Man sues parents for dumping porn collection

**USA:** An Indiana man is suing his parents for getting rid of his vast pornography collection, which he estimates is worth \$25,000.

The 40-year-old last week filed a lawsuit in federal court in Michigan, where he moved in with his parents in 2016 following a divorce.

He says that when he moved out 10 months later, they delivered his things to his new home in Muncie, Indiana, but that his 12 boxes of pornographic films and magazines were missing.

His parents admit they dumped the stash of porn.

### Death notice

**England:** A death notice for UK democracy activist published in *The Times*. Democracy "died quietly in her sleep" at 11pm on March 29, the time that the UK had been scheduled to leave the EU, according to the notice.

It went on: "The cause of death was by foul play and the culprits have yet to be brought in justice. Democracy campaigned for the rule of law, human rights and free elections. She listened to everyone and favoured the majority in all her decisions. She will be sorely missed. God have mercy on her soul."

### 'Floor it'

**USA:** A secret Service agent told the daughter of Michelle and Barack Obama to "floor it" during her first driving lesson.

Ms Obama said she and her husband wanted to make life as normal as possible for daughters Malia and Sasha during their time as America's First Family and learning to drive was part of that.

## A world apart...



Sasha and Malia Obama: Driving lessons from secret service.

The former first lady recalled how an agent told Malia to floor it on her first driving lesson.

She said: "The theory was, the most important part of driving is learning how to stop under any circumstance, so he was like, you've got to know what speed is like and how to stop with speed. I was like, these crazy dudes."

### Fishy business

**USA:** Charges have been dropped against a man it is Carolina man accused of leaving his pet fish behind without food when he was evicted.

New Hanover County District Attorney Ben David told news outlets that 53-year-old Michael Hinson is no longer charged with animal cruelty and abandonment. He said fish are not protected under

related statutes that define "animal" as amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals — but not humans.

### Feline's freedom

**England:** WikiLeaks has confirmed that the cat owned by founder Julian Assange is safe after the Australian fugitive's arrest in London.

The feline had lived with Assange during his seven-year stay at the Ecuadorian embassy since May 2016, when she was gifted to him as a pet by his children.

In a tweet accompanied by a video of the animal sat in front of footage of Assange's arrest, WikiLeaks said: "We can confirm that Assange's cat is safe. Assange asked his lawyers to rescue him from embassy threats in mid-October. They will be reunited in freedom."

### Bad cop

**USA:** The interim police chief of Richmond, Virginia, has said one of his officers will be disciplined for telling a group of middle schoolers: "Wait until your asses turn 18, then you're mine."

Interim chief William Smith told news outlets the officer will undergo remedial training. A video posted online shows several black students standing outside Albert Hill Middle School when the officer drives past and dropped against a fence. It is unclear what led to the confrontation. Teneisha Calloway posted the video and said her daughter was in the group of students. She said she wants the department to release the officer's identity. Mayor Levar Stoney and city schools Superintendent Jason Kamras both condemned the officer's actions.

**THE ORIGINAL & BEST!**

**FUNDERLAND**

**EASTER EGG HUNT ON EASTER SUNDAY**

Sponsored by **Milsean** Multi-Award Winning Chocolatier

**CORKS 96FM** **C103**

**creamfields**

**TRAMORE ROAD, CORK**  
**10th April - 28th April 2019**  
12pm until 10pm daily

Book Online  
**www.funderland.com**  
Group & corporate bookings contact  
info@funderland.com or 021 2428591